

Iran dismisses G-7 criticism

NICOSIA (R) — Iran on Monday brushed aside criticism by the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial powers over its attitude towards "terrorism," saying economic interests made it impossible to ignore G-7 members like Germany and Japan. Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammedi, quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency, said Iran opposed "terrorism" anywhere in the world and accused unnamed G-7 countries of backing "terrorist agents" of the Iraq-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq opposition group. Tehran Radio said Britain and the United States had led efforts to condemn Iran at the G-7 summit in Naples, Italy. It reported that the British charge d'affaires was summoned to the foreign ministry to hear a protest over renewed British charges that Tehran supported the Irish Republican Army (IRA). British officials at the summit said on Saturday Prime Minister John Major, angry over Tehran's alleged links with the IRA which fights to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, had persuaded the other leaders to condemn Iran. Tehran denies the charge which was first raised in April.

Jordan Times

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Rockets hit Kabul during OIC meeting

KABUL (AP) — Enemy shells blew out the windows of the presidential palace where the secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) was talking peace with Afghanistan's besieged president Monday. Bodyguards scurried for cover while talks in a back room of the old stone palace went on uninterrupted between Hamid Al Ghabid, the OIC secretary general, and President Burhanuddin Rabbani. There were no injuries in the hour-long attack. Mr. Ghabid is trying to broker a peace agreement between Afghanistan's rival factions, who have been battling for power since they together overthrew the communists in 1992. The latest and bloodiest battle is between Mr. Rabbani and his arch rival, Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who staged an unsuccessful coup last January. Since then Mr. Hekmatyar has besieged the city demanding Mr. Rabbani's resignation in exchange for peace. Mr. Rabbani blamed Hekmatyar for the attack on the palace. Mr. Hekmatyar was not immediately available for comment. Mr. Hekmatyar was to meet Mr. Ghabid on Tuesday.

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Yemeni cabinet to meet in Aden

ADEN (Agencies) — Officials from Yemen's northern-based government arrived here Monday for a meeting aimed at restoring law and order to this southern city plagued by post-war looting, officials said.

The first government meeting since the north won a two-month war against southern separatists last week will take place on Wednesday, they said.

The delegation was led by the vice president of the presidential council, Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani and included Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Ansi as well as several other ministers.

Mr. Abdul Ghani told reporters that "the priority is to consolidate security" and return things to normal by getting the administration and police back to work.

The police has been called on to replace the northern army which started its withdrawal from the south's bastion on Sunday.

He added that the interior ministry "would take severe measures against those looting public property."

Unidentified armed gangs have looted stores and public buildings since Aden fell to northern troops on Thursday following a month-long siege and as southern leaders fled the country (see page 2).

Mr. Abdul Ghani said there had been no arrests among Aden residents, denying statements by exiled southern leaders.

Officials said the cabinet, headed by a caretaker prime minister since President Ali Abdullah Saleh sacked the previous prime minister who supported the separatist southern cause, would remain in session in the city for 10 days.

The move was seen by Yemenis as a gesture to reassure southerners defeated after two months of civil war that they remained central to the concerns of the Sanaa-based government.

Western diplomats in Sanaa said many of 17 foreign consulates in Aden had been looted since northern forces took over the city Thursday. Although representatives

Iryani carries reply message

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yemeni Planning Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani said Monday his country deeply appreciates Jordan's stand during the Yemeni crisis and the medical assistance the Kingdom extended to the Yemeni people.

Winding up a two-day visit to Jordan, Dr. Iryani said Yemen's appreciation of the Kingdom's stand was contained in a verbal message he conveyed to His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Court.

The envoy said he was carrying a reply message to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh from King Hussein.

The meeting at the Royal Court was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court officials.

Dr. Iryani was meanwhile quoted as warning that any effort by Gulf Arab countries to interfere in his country's affairs could destabilise the region.

Naming ceremony

A naming ceremony was held at the Al Nadwa Palace on Monday for His Royal Highness Prince Al Hussein, the son of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Al Hussein and Princess Rania. The ceremony was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Also attending the ceremony were other members of the Royal family, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisors and other senior officials as well as members of Princess Rania's family (photo by Crystal).



Israeli negotiators for the first time in Jordan

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli negotiators, including probably Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, will cross the border into Jordan on July 18 in what Jordan hopes will be a necessary step to achieve success in its negotiations with Israel.

The Jordanian-Israeli bilateral negotiations, according to a Jordanian negotiator's source, will begin on July 18 at an enclosed compound in a site that is 15 to 20 kilometres outside the Red Sea city of Aqaba. The compound will be

the only area where the two negotiating teams and the press will meet.

"The Israeli negotiators and journalists will not venture beyond the compound which will be erected for the purpose of these negotiations," said the Jordanian delegation spokesman, Marwan Muasher. "The Israeli delegation will cross the border at the site of negotiations and will return every day at the end of that day's talks," Dr. Muasher said.

The compound will include air-conditioned tents and prefabricated units, which will house negotiations rooms, waiting rooms, a conference room that will accommodate

around 200 journalists, and Israeli and Jordanian Press centres equipped with international lines and facilities.

Spokespeople from the two sides will conduct briefings as is warranted by the negotiations in the separate press offices. A third press office is being prepared at a hotel in Aqaba to facilitate the work of journalists who are staying there.

Journalists will be shuttled to and from the site in buses provided by the army and journalists will not be allowed to drive their own vehicles to the site.

Jordan Television, Dr. Muasher confirmed, will be transmitting major events

from the site.

Eleven Jordanian negotiators, headed by Jordan's Ambassador to Washington, Faysal Tarawneh, will be conducting the initial negotiations which for "a couple of days" will concentrate on the "modalities" that will govern the talks.

The "umbrella team" will be working out the details of how to hold negotiations and whether they will be continuous or not as well as other details, including the length of breaks between the meetings necessary for the conduct of "serious negotiations."

Sub-committees for the

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Israelis kill two in heart of Nablus

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops paralysed the largest West Bank city Monday during extensive searches for Palestinian activists, besieging a home in the Casbah and killing two Palestinian men inside.

The 110,000 people in Nablus, 70 kilometres north of Jerusalem, were under curfew, with all movement banned. Tension is rising in West Bank population centres, where residents feel the Palestinian self-rule plan implemented last May in Gaza and the relatively isolated West Bank town of Jericho has done little to ease the Israeli occupation.

In Nablus, residents of the twisted alleys in the city's old quarter said about 30 soldiers surrounded a one-room house around 2:30 a.m. (2330 GMT Sunday). Dozens more took over nearby rooftops.

They opened fire on the house at about 5 a.m. (0200 GMT), first throwing in two grenades followed by scores of bullets and then two rockets, said Ali Awkashi, a 62-year-old grocer who was

watching.

When looking for fugitives, the army generally pours fire into the house to try to kill them rather than risk soldiers' lives by moving inside.

Mr. Awkashi said the firing stopped about two hours after it started and an Israeli officer ordered him into the blackened wreckage to check for bodies. The stone walls were nicked with bullet holes.

"I saw two dead people lying in the courtyard off the one, small room. They had two pistols and a big rifle," he said.

Abdul Karm Ayyesh, owner of a pastry shop in the Jasmine quarter, said an ambulance was called in and the two corpses carted away. The army then ordered everyone off the street, ran wires into the house and blew it up.

The two men killed were identified by neighbours as Bashar Amoudi, 25, from Ras Al 'Ain in Nablus and Ali Othman Assi, age unknown, of Bani Hasan village near Ramallah.

PLO, Israel discuss widening autonomy

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli negotiators started work on Monday on details of the next stage in the Middle East peace process — giving Palestinians more autonomy and redeploying Israeli troops in the rest of the West Bank.

The Israelis, led by Major-General Danny Rothchild, and a PLO team headed by Planning Minister Nabil Shaath had several hours of talks at a Cairo hotel on "early empowerment" for Palestinians still living under Israeli occupation.

Dr. Shaath led the PLO side in the long negotiations that eventually brought Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May.

"The main thing is that we are going to begin extending the Palestinian authority to the West Bank," Dr. Shaath said.

Dr. Shaath said he hoped the negotiations would be completed by October in time for elections to an autonomous council in the

West Bank and Gaza Strip. But the first phase of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho was launched in May after six months of negotiations — four months longer than planned — which also failed to clear up all details.

Such unfinished business as the size of the Jericho district and Palestinian prisoners will now be tackled first in the new round of Cairo talks, Dr. Shaath said.

Both sides were closer to a deal on the release of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, now that Israel is no longer demanding he be sent into exile, Dr. Shaath said.

But they want him to pledge not to oppose the peace process, said Dr. Shaath. "Sheikh Yassin's case is at the top of our concerns," he said.

An official Israeli source said the two or three days of meetings this week would seek to establish an agenda for negotiations.

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N. Korea signals it will seek end to isolation

SEOUL (Agencies) — North Korea on Monday indicated it would pursue the break with isolation launched by late President Kim Il-Sung, while the South signalled it would accept his son, Kim Jong-Il, as successor in the interests of stability.

North Korea made its first contact with the South since Kim's death last Friday, shortly before its top decision-making bodies reportedly began a meeting expected to name Kim Jong-Il, 32, as the next leader.

Southern officials said Pyongyang notified Seoul "with regret" that it had to postpone the historic July 25-27 inter-Korean summit because of Kim's death, southern officials said.

The inter-Korean contact followed what was seen here as an even more encouraging development in Geneva Sunday, when Pyongyang said it intended to resume talks with Washington after the July 17 funeral of Kim Il-Sung.

The moves prompted South Korea to send a signal to the North that it was ready to accept Kim Jong-Il, the eldest son of the "great leader," as new dialogue partner when he officially succeeded his father.

A presidential aide said on

condition of anonymity: "We have to accept Kim Jong-Il as reality for the sake of stability on the Korean Peninsula."

Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo told the National Assembly: "If we place top priority on stability, then we can say that the stability of a Kim Jong-Il system would contribute to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula."

South Korean television showed Kim Jong-Il weeping at the flower-bedecked, open coffin of his father, receiving condolences from high ranking officials.

Kim Jong-Il stood with a white handkerchief to his eyes, dressed in a grey Mao suit, with his younger sister Kim Kyong-Hi and Defence Minister O Jin-U at his side.

About 100 other top military officials in uniform and party cadres in dark suits and wearing black arm bands filed past the coffin which was strewn with red, pink and white flowers.

Meanwhile former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Robert Gates said he would not rule out the possibility that President Kim was killed by hardliners wary of the tack he was taking with the United States and South

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PLO leader bids farewell to Tunis

TUNIS (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat, on the verge of going home as a political leader after 27 years in exile as a guerrilla commander, said Monday he will not rest until an independent Palestinian state is established with its capital in Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat, president of the new Palestinian National Authority (PNA) established under a peace accord with Israel, spoke to about 1,000 Tunisian dignitaries who bade him farewell.

"We will continue this struggle until the Palestinian flag will fly over all the Palestinian land and an independent Palestinian state is set up with Jerusalem as its capital," Mr. Arafat told the crowd at Tunisia's presidential palace.

"It is a difficult battle," he conceded before flying out. Mr. Arafat flew to Egypt and then was to head for Gaza to take up permanent residence with his wife Suha. He made a brief visit last week.

His farewell in Tunis was a red-carpet affair, hosted by President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, who presented him with Tunisia's highest medal, which is named for the date when Mr. Ben Ali took office as president in 1987.

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Jordanian negotiators expect no easy sailing with Israelis, but hope talks will ascertain principle of withdrawal

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan believes that it will set an important precedent in Arab-Israeli negotiations when border talks begin in Wadi Araba next Monday having extracted a commitment from Israel to settle the territorial issue ahead of signing any peace treaty in the future.

Jordanian officials say that while Jordan appears to have made a major concession to Israel by allowing the negotiations to move into the region and postponing discussion on the issue of Palestinian refugees, it had in fact set an important precedent that will later serve the Syrian and the Lebanese tracks of negotiations with Israel.

"Jordan made two concessions to Israel," a senior Jordanian negotiator told the Jordan Times. "We allowed the negotiations to move to the area and accepted to prioritise vis-a-vis the issue of

refugees by agreeing to postpone discussion of this issue for a short period of time."

The moving of negotiations here is very important to Israel because to them it means the beginning of acceptance in the region," the negotiator explained, adding that the Wadi Araba bilateral talks will be actually the "first time in the history of the conflict that Israeli officials will enter Arab lands."

On the issue of refugees, he added, "Jordan has not dropped and will not drop this issue." But he explained, Jordan felt that it could "prioritise" on this issue because "delaying the issue of refugees will also serve as a very good reason to insist on the comprehensiveness of the solution and underline the fact that Jordan will not sign a separate peace treaty."

Jordan's gain, this and other negotiators say, is in being the first Arab country to enter territorial negotia-

tions with Israel, including the talks with Egypt, under the understanding that it was a Jordanian right that was usurped by the Israelis.

"It is not land for peace ... it is not land for normalisation ... Jordan is entering serious negotiations over territory with the understanding that the borders are those of the British mandate," the senior negotiator said.

"We are discussing the question of where the mandate line is but not the extent of withdrawal because that is understood to be 100 per cent of the occupied Jordanian territory," he added.

The Israeli commitment, the negotiator said, was made as part of the Israeli-Jordanian agenda which was signed in Washington a day after the historic signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles on Sept. 13, 1993.

It is not, however, going to be easy sailing on the issue of territory or water, Jordanian

negotiators privately concede. While the territories' issue seems clear cut legally, practically it is not.

While most negotiators expect negotiations over occupied Jordanian territory in the south to be straightforward border and territory talks, negotiations in north are closely interlinked with the water issue.

With statements from Israel, most recently from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres late last week, claiming that Israel has not infringed on Jordan's water rights, negotiators expect these talks to be more grueling.

Mr. Peres and other Israeli officials have tried to change the issue of water sharing and rights into one that they describe as "water production."

Jordanian negotiators point out that the Jordanian-Israeli agenda stipulates that talks will discuss the "rightful water shares" of both sides.

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Peres 'to meet Majali, Christopher in Jordan'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Monday he would meet his U.S. and Jordanian counterparts in Jordan next week. Becoming the first top Israeli official to set foot publicly on Jordanian soil.

In a further move towards peace, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin welcomed readiness by King Hussein for a first-ever summit between the two leaders.

Mr. Peres told a parliamentary committee that he, his Jordanian counterpart Abdul Salam Al Majali and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would meet on July 20, two days after Israeli officials renew peace talks with Jordan in southern Israel.

"On the 18th of July the talks will begin with the Jordanians in Ein Evrona in a

tent," a parliamentary official who briefed reporters quoted Mr. Peres as saying.

"On the 20th of the month there will be a meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, the United States and Israel on the other side of the border in a place less romantic than the tent," Mr. Peres said.

Israeli officials said Mr. Peres would be the first top Israeli official to set foot publicly on Jordanian soil.

Israel and Jordan have been formally at war since Israel's founding in 1948. Their three years of public talks, launched in Madrid and confined largely to Washington, will reach a climax next week when they move to Israel and Jordan.

The talks, starting next Monday, will focus on border demarcation, water and other issues blocking a peace treat-

ty. U.S.-brokered talks on economic cooperation are due to follow.

The King, in a bold statement apparently aimed at preparing Jordan for peace, told Jordanian Parliament members on Saturday he was ready to meet Mr. Rabin. He left the timing of the meeting open.

"I welcome the statement, I will welcome the meeting," Mr. Rabin told reporters on Monday.

The King said Washington had promised, once a public meeting with Mr. Rabin was held, to take immediate steps to waive \$950 million in debts and modernise Jordan's 100,000-strong army.

King Hussein told Parliament on Saturday he would "not sitate to meet the Israeli prime minister if that is the price to pay to serve Jordan's interests."

Mr. Peres earlier said no date has been fixed for Mr. Rabin and King Hussein to stage their first official meeting.

Mr. Peres will "in principle" hold talks with Mr. Christopher and Mr. Majali on July 20 in Jordan, an official spokesman said Monday.

The meeting will take place on the eastern bank of the Dead Sea and will cover the peace negotiations between Israel and Jordan," said a foreign ministry spokesman.

Mr. Peres told the parliament foreign relations and defence committee Monday that the July talks will focus on joint road building projects, tourism, water sharing and adjusting borders.

"I think we are very

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Hebron leaders want to be next for autonomy

By Haitham Hamad
The Associated Press

HEBRON, the West Bank — Chafing under the 53rd day of Israeli-imposed curfew this year, Hebron civic leaders charged Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat on Sunday with neglecting the troubled city, saying it should be the next to gain autonomy.

"In order to save Hebron, it must be next after Gaza and Jericho," said Hashem Natshe, the head of the Chamber of Commerce.

Tension escalated sharply Thursday night, when Palestinians killed a 17-year-old Israeli girl from the neighbouring Kiryat Arba settlement in a drive-by shooting.

Settler protests quickly escalated into a confrontation with the army that many view as a test case of whether the government can control the settlers.

The army placed Arab Hebron under curfew, meaning Palestinians must remain indoors, barred from working and their shopping limited to two hours daily.

Those breaking the curfew face immediate arrest. Army officials would not say when the curfew would be lifted.

"We cannot blame just the Israeli soldiers and Jewish settlers," said Mr. Natshe, head of the local branch of the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, that opposes the peace accord. "Arafat is also responsible for this situation."

Mr. Arafat made a historic return to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho last week, six weeks after Israel handed the areas over to Palestinian self-rule.

Most of the West Bank remains under Israeli occupation. Hebron, the only town where Jews and Arabs live side by side, creates the most tension and will be the most difficult geographic area for spreading self-rule.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe, a distant relative of Hashem Natshe, said he asked PLO negotiators to raise Hebron with their Israeli counterparts when talks on extending self-rule in the West Bank resume in Cairo Monday.

Israel will propose expanding self-rule to Arabs in the West Bank, Israeli reports said Sunday.

But Mr. Mustafa Natshe remained pessimistic.

"No one can convince the people in the city that Israel is serious about peace. Not even Arafat can do that anymore," said the mayor, appointed this year with Mr. Arafat's approval.

"Under the eyes of the Israeli soldiers, fanatic settlers frighten and terrorise the entire city."

The Israeli army said the curfew was to prevent friction between the city's 130,000 Palestinians and 150 Israelis. But the Palestinians see it as collective punishment.

Even worse, Mayor Natshe said, was the 40-day curfew imposed after Jewish settler Baruch Gold-

stein massacred more than 30 worshippers in a Hebron mosque on Feb. 25. He asked why Palestinians should have suffered for the crime.

"(Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin must know that as long as the settlers remain in Hebron, the cycle of blood will continue," Mr. Natshe said.

Israeli troops have killed 17 Hebron Palestinians in clashes this year. Another 100 Palestinians suffered wounds. Four Israelis have been killed in the area, besides Goldstein, who worshippers bludgeoned to death after he opened fire.

On Sunday, the city under curfew was deserted except for Israeli army patrols. The over 100 observers from Norway, Denmark and Italy placed in Hebron as part of PLO demands after the massacre moved around the town but could do nothing to get the curfew lifted.

"Hamas salutes those who carried out the Hebron attack," read one slogan scrawled on a Hebron wall. "Down with the Gaza-Jericho accord," other graffiti read.

After Thursday's killing, settlers burned Arab fields and smashed car windshields. At least 12 families moved into a new Kiryat Arba neighbourhood that the government had deliberately kept empty as part of its freeze on settlement.

Squatters quit

AFP adds: Hardline Jewish settlers who took over unsold apartments in Kiryat Arba began to leave peacefully on Monday after the army threatened to evict them.

"The withdrawal is taking place without trouble and should be finished in a few hours," one military official said.

President Ezer Weizman negotiated a peaceful end to the showdown when he met settler representatives on Sunday. He said he told them to "respect the law" and not to confront Israeli soldiers.

In return for their "goodwill," the settlers won a meeting Monday afternoon with Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer to discuss how they can move into the apartments legally.

Troop reinforcements were deployed Sunday in the area which was declared a "closed military zone" after the government ordered the removal of dozens of settlers who stormed into the homes on Friday, vowing to fight to the end.

The housing ministry said the properties remained unsold following an end to huge government subsidies for settlers, part of a freeze on the spread of settlements.

Absorption Minister Yari Tzaban said the squatters were "the first test for the government" following last month's publication of the inquiry in the Hebron mosque massacre.

A housing ministry spokeswoman said 4,000 homes were empty on the West Bank because no one wanted to buy them.

"If the settlers want to move in to them, they only have to pay the same as any Israeli who wants to buy an apartment," she said.

Israeli deputy defence minister vows to increase settlements in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Standing among a crop of partially built villas on a hill overlooking an Arab village, a top Israeli official vowed Monday that Israel would go on expanding the Jewish presence in Jerusalem.

"It's natural that after a long period of the Arabs not negotiating with us and hoping to destroy us we should spread out and secure our power to build," Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur said.

"There is no reason for that power to stop" despite the peace process, said Mr. Gur, a former army chief of staff.

Mr. Gur, one of a coterie of former generals who are close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, is the government's chief spokesman on settlement policy.

He spoke during a tour with the right-wing mayor, Ehud Olmert, of Ramat Shapet, a new Jewish neighbourhood in East Jerusalem due to be occupied by the end of 1995 — just about the time that talks with the Palesti-

nians on the future of the city are due to start.

Palestinians and Israelis have left Jerusalem, the most sensitive issue on the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agenda, as the final subject for negotiation.

Palestinians, who want part of the city as the capital of a Palestinian state, say Israel is preempting the possibility of returning the land to Arab sovereignty by "creating facts on the ground."

Mr. Gur said Israel's policy was never to relinquish any part of Jerusalem at any time. "Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish people, who were the only ones ever to call it a capital," he said. "That is the historical fact."

Israel claims the PLO is engaged in creating facts on the ground by setting up offices in Jerusalem to run the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

"We will not allow any signs of Arab attempts for sovereignty in Jerusalem to even begin to show," Mr. Gur said.

Palestinian spokesmen at

Orient House, a Jerusalem institution and the focus of Israeli efforts to limit Palestinian activity in the city, were unavailable for comment.

Ramat Shapet, overlooking the Arab village of Shuafat that was incorporated into the city after 1967, will house 2,165 orthodox Jewish families by November 1995. Shuafat residents have been waiting for years for permission to expand the village to accommodate natural growth.

Mr. Olmert, who is a leading figure in the Likud party, said he was "not opposed" to building an additional 2,000 units for Arab use in the area.

There are problems with the government bureaucracy, not the municipal bureaucracy," Mr. Olmert said.

Mr. Gur insisted that the tour was to review Jerusalem's "security" needs and not to set government policy.

But he reviewed a map featuring a proposed road that would encompass both halves of the city and extend to the West Bank settlement of Maaleh Adumim, bypassing Arab villages.

Cabinet ministers close Mr. Rabin have suggested recently that Israel pass legislation annexing Maaleh Adumim in the east and another West Bank settlement, Givat Zeev, in the north.

In a sign that such a move may be planned, the army has moved roadblocks set up to check Palestinians entering Jerusalem from the city's outskirts to Maaleh Adumim and Givat Zeev.

Mr. Gur, who said the government had no intention of annexing the settlements to Jerusalem, claimed that the roadblocks were moved outwards purely for security reasons.

Mr. Olmert showed Mr. Gur how the municipality was gentrifying parts of the Muslim market in Jerusalem's walled Old City.

"We've invested millions in the market, and you can see it here in the decorative roofs, useful and attractive," Mr. Olmert said as the two strolled through the market. "This is a face lift."

Lebanese resistance shifts tactics in running battle against Israelis

TYRE, Lebanon (AFP) — Heavily armed Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas have changed tactics, launching deadly hit-and-run attacks on Israeli positions deeper within the "security zone" in southern Lebanon, fundamentalists and security officials said.

Over the past few weeks Hizbollah has switched from shelling positions on the edge of the "security zone" held by Israeli troops or its proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia to more structured attacks, security officials added.

The Islamic Resistance, Hizbollah's armed wing, has killed three Israeli soldiers since June 20, including an officer, and hurt five others, they said.

The Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas vowed last month to fight Israel on all fronts to avenge 32 comrades killed in a devastating air raid June 2 in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled eastern Bekaa Valley.

But instead of suicide operations against Israeli interests, the guerrillas opted for new methods, using a large number of well-trained commandos, massive firepower and heavier weapons.

In a change of tactic, dozens of heavily armed men are sent in as close as possible to SLA or Israeli positions in the zone to carry out hit-and-run operations, under the cover of an artillery barrage, the officials said.

On June 20 an Israeli soldier was killed at Jarmaq, five kilometres inside the zone. On July 4 another soldier was killed in Rihan, eight kilometres inside the buffer strip. An Israeli officer was killed in the same spot two days later.

"One hundred fighters took part in each one of these operations," one of the leaders of the Islamic Resistance in the southern port of Tyre, who declined to be identified, told AFP.

The guerrillas were armed with 106-mm cannons, 23-mm anti-aircraft guns weighing 70-80 kilograms, 82-mm mortars, surface-to-air missiles as well as Doshka-type machine guns that can weigh up to 90 kilograms, he said.

"Thanks to this type of firepower we can now neutralise (Israeli) helicopters and positions in the areas of our operations," he said, adding there had not been any casualties among Hizbollah ranks.

On July 4, Hizbollah carried out a four-pronged attack on Israeli and SLA positions firing anti-tank rockets, machine guns and mortars and injuring an Israeli soldier in addition to killing one.

Military sources in Tel Aviv said the mortar and rocket attacks were the heaviest Hizbollah offensive in eight months.

Two days later an SLA militiaman was wounded in an attack that left an Israeli officer dead.

Israel has retaliated against these operations by shelling positions north of the "security zone," carrying out almost daily reconnaissance flights over Hizbollah positions and blasting their strongholds seven times since June 2.

There had not been any casualties in the air attacks because Hizbollah had bolstered its security measures in recent weeks, explained the Islamic Resistance official.

"Sentries are on the lookout for Israeli warplanes and as soon as one is spotted orders are given out to evacuate our bases," another official in the Bekaa Valley said.

Over the past few days the Israeli army has also reinforced its positions, according to the SLA.

Four additional Merkava tanks were deployed inside the zone and soldiers have been carrying out round-the-clock patrols, the SLA said.

Aden food warehouse plundered

ADEN (R) — Yemeni soldiers and civilians ransacked a big food warehouse on the outskirts of Aden on Sunday, three days after northern forces captured the city from southern secessionists.

In a chaotic scramble lasting one hour, looters stripped the warehouse of tonnes of wheat and vegetable oil before troops belatedly sealed off the near-empty building.

The looting at the warehouse was the most visible sign on Sunday that, after suffering weeks of siege and bombardment during Yemen's two-month civil war, Aden is still a long way from returning to an orderly existence.

Elsewhere in the city people queued at makeshift wells for water, or crowded round water tankers supplied by the government and international aid agencies.

Aden's water supply has been crippled by damage to pumps and pipelines, as well as lack of fuel to run the generators that power the pumps.

Flames still flickered in the rubble of Aden's only brewery, which was set ablaze two days ago by northern soldiers, and a number of other buildings around the city appeared to be little more than burnt-out shells.

Soldiers, who are due to be withdrawn from Aden in the next few days, patrolled most quarters of the city and curiously checked the contents of cars heading out for the north.

But they appeared to turn a blind eye to the stream of cars leaving the warehouse at Dar Saad, just north of Aden, laden with bags of wheat and containers of vegetable oil.

"These people are thieves. Now we will all be hungry," said a man as he watched people pour out of the warehouse, struggling in the sweltering midday heat to carry off 50-kg bags marked "European Community wheat."

Others, including soldiers, were carrying boxes filled with oil containers marked "World Food Programme."

"We opened the warehouse on presidential orders," said a soldier standing nonchalantly by the warehouse.

"(Southern leader) Ali Salem (Al Beidh) kept it all locked away. Now we are giving it to the people," he said.

Mr. Beidh was the southern leader who joined an alliance with northern president Ali Abdullah Saleh when North and South Yemen united in 1990. The two men fell out and civil war broke out on May 4. Mr. Beidh has since fled.

Finally troops began shooting volley after volley of shots into the air and the warehouse itself to disperse the looters.

But the warehouse, measuring 100 by 40 metres, was virtually bare by then and the soldiers made little attempt to regain the goods, most of which had already been loaded on to hundreds of cars stretching back along the main Sanaa-Aden road.

One man carrying what appeared to be a long-term supply of vegetable oil just shrugged when asked what he needed it for. "We are hungry," he said.

A senior United Nations official said on Friday the organisation had stored around 6,000 tonnes of food in Aden.

He said he hoped the United Nations could distribute it to relieve hunger in the city, but he did not know how much was still available.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Secret Israel-PLO talks on MIAs — report

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) held a series of secret meetings over the six Jewish soldiers missing in action (MIAs) in Lebanon, a senior Palestinian official told AFP. "Negotiations have been going on over the return of Israeli bodies from Lebanon and how the PLO can assist," said the official, who refused to be named. "In return for PLO aid we want Israel to release the Palestinian woman in Israeli jails," he said. The talks were held at the Erez checkpoint into the Gaza Strip and were expected to continue. According to the Gaza Centre for Human Rights as of the end of June Israel held 37 Palestinian women from occupied territories. Last December, the PLO handed over a name tag from one of three Israeli soldiers who disappeared during the battle of Sultan Yacub on June 11, 1982. Mr. Rabin hailed the gesture as positive and significant, but said he was awaiting news of the fate of the other two. The PLO has publicly pledged to do its best to help locate remains of MIAs but admitted gaining reliable information is extremely difficult after so many years. Two other men went missing in February 1986 when they were ambushed in the "security zone" Israel occupies in southern Lebanon. The sixth, navigator Ron Arad, was captured after being shot down over Lebanon in October 1986. Arad is the only one Israel believes could still be alive. The remains of an Israeli Druse soldier who had been captured in Lebanon in April 1993 by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine were returned to Israel in September 1991.

Iran smashes international drugs ring

TEHRAN (AFP) — Security forces have cracked an international drug ring here, seizing 1,500 kilograms of narcotics and arresting 18 suspected traffickers, state television announced on Sunday. They also found \$100,000 in banknotes proving the gang were part of an international network, the television added. Weapons and ammunition were also among the haul which followed a hunt of several months. The television said, quoting a security forces commander, Since March more than three tonnes of drugs have been seized in Tehran and 3,658 traffickers arrested, according to the television. Almost 52 tonnes of drugs have been seized in Iran in the first six months of 1994 — the largest amount ever registered. Security forces said they seized 96 tonnes of drugs in 1993, most of it opium coming from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Drug-trafficking and consumption are strictly banned in Iran under a law passed in 1989 laying down the death penalty for any person found with more than 30 grammes of heroin or more than five kilograms of opium. Last week more than 40 countries meeting in Tehran in talks sponsored by Interpol agreed to work closely together to combat drug production and trafficking from the Middle East and central Asia. Iran is used as a transit point for drugs coming from central Asia and destined for the European and U.S. markets.

N. Zealand soldiers complain about Somalia pay

WELLINGTON (AFP) — An army major alleged Monday that the New Zealand government turned a profit on sending peacekeepers to Somalia by holding back on the soldiers' pay. Defence Minister Warren Cooper has called for an urgent report in response to the allegation. Major Simon Tregear said the government made a 4.1 million NZ dollar (\$2.4 million) profit from sending peacekeeping troops to Somalia, and soldiers saw nothing of a \$167.74 a month bonus paid by the United Nations for each soldier. Mr. Tregear said his troops should get decent pay "plus any funds paid by the U.N. for the soldiers." Mr. Cooper said he knew nothing of a bonus, but "when you get soldiers overseas dealing with lots of other soldiers from other countries you're going to inevitably get talk about what soldiers from other countries are getting." He said that it should also be considered that New Zealand has a lower cost of living than nations like France and Britain. "We're not in the business of being involved in overseas peacekeeping to make money," he said. "We're there to do a job."

Turkish-Cypriots close off 'green line'

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish-Cypriots on Monday temporarily closed the "green line" dividing the island in protest at a European court ruling against imports to the European Union from the Turkish side. The Turkish-Cypriot news agency TAK reported that hundreds of demonstrators also protested the "unjust" ruling by the European Court of Justice that certain imports from the Turkish Cypriot side are illegal. The demonstration was backed by the Turkish-Cypriot Union of Textile Industries and the union of Citrus Fruit Producers, the report said received in Ankara. The court decided on July 5 that customs certificates issued by the Turkish-Cypriots were not valid for the import of certain products into the European Union, which only recognises the Republic of Cyprus, the Greek side of the island. Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974, occupying the northern part of the island. In 1983 it declared itself the Turkish republic of northern Cyprus, but it has never been recognised by any country except Turkey. Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas said: "Nobody can condemn this reaction. It is the determination of a people claiming their rights." The Turkish-Cypriots closed the line at the island's only crossing point in the capital Nicosia, which is divided between the two communities. The line is patrolled by a U.N. peacekeeping force, and movement between the two sides of the island is strictly controlled by both the Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

JORDAN TELEVISION
11 7711-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 — Envo Special
18:30 — News in French
18:45 — Grand Galop
19:00 — News in Arabic
20:00 — Step by Step
21:00 — Get to Know Your Body
21:00 — The Commish
22:00 — News in English
22:30 — Matia
23:00 — The Upper Hand

PRAYER TIMES
04:00 — Fajr
05:30 — Sunrise Doha
12:41 — Dhuhur
16:22 — Asr
18:00 — Maghrib
21:22 — Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Amman, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.
812750
St. Joseph Church Tel. 625840
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
625240
De la Salle Church Tel. 601757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622200
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
625241
American Church Tel. 638551, Tel.
628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771371
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel.
625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
824725
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 624195
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675841
The Evangelical Local Church in
Amman
Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology
Normal summer weather conditions
will prevail with winds north-
westerly moderate to active. In
Aqaba, winds will be northerly
moderate and seas calm.
Min. Max. temp.
Amman 19/29
Aqaba 23/37
Desert 16/32
Jordan Valley 22/35
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30, Aqaba 38, Humidity
readings: Amman 28 per cent,
Aqaba 24 per cent

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim 620115
Dr. Yusef Nair 751144
Dr. Yusef Abdul 640116
Dr. Jamal J. Nair 704660
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637955
Al Salam pharmacy 628672
Narguith pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637640
Narguith pharmacy 628672
Najih pharmacy 847692

IRBID:
Dr. Akram Mumin (—)
Akram pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Husein Al Hajj 984244
Khalid pharmacy 98417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 194
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 181228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63031
Hotel Complaints 628800
Price Complaints 601176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(Directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010220
Control Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 690101
Jordan Electricity Authority
Company 815615
Electric Power
RJ Flight Information 08-53201
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53201

Husseini Medical Centre 81361332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann. 64428116
Akil Maternity, J. Ann. 64244112
Jabal Amman Maternity 642962
Malthus, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeican 66417112
Shmeican Hospital 660131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 66727274
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muasher 7710113
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7711126
Army, Marka 59161115
Queen Alia Hospital 660101
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt Hospital 019493323
Zarqa National Hospital
(019)900501
Ibn Sina Hospital 019496732
Al-Hilana Modern Hospital 019496941
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02127555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02127275
Al-Hilana Modern Hospital 019496941
Princess Haya Hospital 019314111

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen Alia In-
ternational Airport Tel. (06)53201-
5, where it should always be veri-
fied.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights
(Terminal 1)
04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:30 Damascus (RJ)
06:30 Dhahran (RJ)
08:30 Agah (RJ)
10:30 Muscat, Doha (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
13:45 Madrid (RJ)
14:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
15:30 Laraca (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:50 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
04:20 Vienna (OS)
05:30 Damascus (AZ)
13:30 Muscat, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (GF)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights
(Terminal 1)
08:00 Agah (RJ)
09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:35 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:55 London (RJ)
14:30 Madrid (RJ)
15:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:50 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:00 Khartoum, Doha (MS)
10:30 Cairo (MS)
12:50 Vienna (OS)
15:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (GF)
18:00 Riyadh (SV)
18:30 Damascus (AZ)
19:30 Kiev (RU)
01:30 Amsterdam (KL)
01:30 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES
Upper-lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 550/450
Apricots 800/700
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 180/180
Carrot 150/180
Cobra 1300/1800
Cherry 1200/700
Cauliflower 220/120
Cucumbers (large) 100/120
Cucumbers (small) 200/120
Eggplant 400/300
Fig 600/500
Garlic 700/500
Grapes 500/350
Lemon 750/450
Marrow (large) 80/40
Marrow (small) 100/50
Mullekhiyah 700/500
Okra 700/500
Orange 500/400
Onion (dry) 200/100
Sweet Melon 180/100
Cucumber (large) 200/120
Pepper (hot) 200/180
Pepper (sweet) 200/180
Potato 400/300
Peaches 800/700
Tomato 100/50
String beans 300/200
Watermelon 100/50

Crown Prince to open Zakat symposium

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan today opens a symposium on Zakat (alms for the poor) and social solidarity in Islam.

The Crown Prince will deliver a keynote speech at the opening session of the meeting which will discuss working papers on the contemporary concept of Zakat, financing social solidarity in Islam, the legitimacy of investing Zakat funds and the prospects of establishing an international Zakat institution.

Government to purchase U.S. staples, tobacco

AMMAN (Petra) — The government Monday announced that it will purchase wheat, rice, dry milk and tobacco from the United States.

A statement issued following a regular Cabinet session said the government formed a delegation led by the Ministry of Supply secretary general to travel to the U.S. to negotiate the wheat purchase.

The delegation will also announce tenders for the purchase of American rice and dried milk and negotiate the purchase of cigarettes, according to the statement.

The Council of Ministers also approved the formation of a delegation to negotiate with Romania the implementation of a Jordanian-Romanian agreement on roads. The delegation will be led by the Ministry of Transport secret-

organised by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bayt Foundation) which had earlier organised two seminars in 1992 and 1993 on "rights in Islam."

Fifty researchers and Muslim scholars of various Islamic schools of thought will take part in the symposium.

They come from Tunisia, Oman, Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, Qatar, Turkey, and Morocco in addition to Jordan.

any general who will also discuss with the Romanian side a possible reduction of fees on Jordanian trucks passing through Romania on their way to Europe, the statement said.

The Council of Ministers announced its approval to host a conference in Amman by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to discuss rural development in the Near East region.

It also announced that Jordan would attend the executive council meetings of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) to be held in late July, and formed a Jordanian delegation to take part in a regional meeting by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Bahrain next October. The delegation is to be led by Minister of Health Aref Batayneh.

'Spain is ready to finance rural development projects'

AMMAN (Petra) — The Spanish government has expressed readiness to help finance a Jordanian project for rural development and another to develop one of the Kingdom's tourism schemes, according to Minister of Planning Hisham Al Khatib.

Speaking Monday upon his return from a visit to Spain, where he led Jordan's side to the Jordanian-Spanish Committee, the minister said the two sides reviewed areas where Spain can provide Jordan with technical assistance in promoting the rehabilitation of the handicapped, combating drug addiction and training personnel in industry-related fields.

Furthermore, discussion covered the implementation of a Jordanian-Spanish cultural agreement which covers the sectors of education, higher education, archaeology, sports and youth information, social development and health, according to Dr. Khatib.

He said the committee has agreed to draw up a draft agreement on cooperation in these fields.

The Spanish side said it would support Spanish voluntary societies' efforts to provide assistance to Jordanian voluntary organisations in helping them carry out rural development and women's training in income-generating projects and care for the handicapped, said Dr. Khatib.

During the visit to Madrid, Mr. Khatib met with Spain's foreign minister and discussed with him bilateral relations and Spain's role in the Middle East peace process.

Dr. Khatib said he met with representatives of Spain's industrial sector and outlined to them incentives offered to investors in the Kingdom's economic and industrial schemes.

He said that he invited Spanish businesspersons to Jordan for a close-hand study of the investment climate and talks with Jordanian businesspersons.

Dr. Khatib was accompanied on the trip by representatives of the ministries of finance, industry and trade and planning.

U.N. survey finds status of Jordanian women relatively high compared to other Arab countries

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The general status of Jordanian women is relatively high when compared with other Arab countries in the region, and the Kingdom ranks among the highest in female adult literacy rate, a U.N. survey has found.

The survey, conducted by the Amman-based U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and made available to the Jordan Times ahead of formal release in September, found that 70 per cent of all Jordanian women over the age of 15 are literate compared with 62 per cent in 1985.

The Kingdom ranked third in adult literacy rate among women after the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 77 per cent and Lebanon with 73 per cent, according to the survey, which is part of documents to be submitted at a U.N. population conference to be held in Cairo in September.

Comparable figures from other member countries of ESCWA are: Bahrain 69 per cent; Kuwait 67 per cent; Iraq 49 per cent; Saudi Arabia 48 per cent; Egypt 34 per cent; Yemen 27 per cent and Oman 26 per cent. Figures for Syria and Qatar, two other members of the 13-member ESCWA, were not provided in the survey.

The general average of adult literacy rate among women for the Arab League's 22 member states stood at 38 per cent in 1990 and is expected to reach 51 per cent by the year 2000.

According to U.N. statistics quoted in the survey, Jordan's female population stood at 2,078,000 in 1990; 48 per cent of them under 15 and 48 per cent between 15 and 60 years and the rest over 60 years. It meant 95 Jordanian females for every 100 Jordanian males.

More recent statistics indicate women represent up to 55 per cent of the Jordanian population; meaning 110 females for every 100 Jordanian males.

The ESCWA survey, entitled "Women and Development," said that in the field

of education, secondary school enrolment for girls is almost equal to that of boys in Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait.

"What is interesting to note is that in Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan, more girls are enrolled in the tertiary level than boys," it added. There are 118 Jordanian girls in the tertiary level of education to every 97 Jordanian boys, it said.

Life expectancy at birth is cited in the survey as one of the key indicators of women's access to health care. The rate stood at 67.3 years in Jordan compared with 74.6 in Kuwait, 73.3 in Saudi Arabia, 71 in Bahrain, 70.8 in the UAE, 69.6 in Qatar, 69.1 in Oman, 66.4 in Syria, 65.7 in Iraq, 60.9 in Egypt and 52.4 in Yemen, the least developed country among ESCWA members.

(Comparable figures for non-ESCWA Arab countries were: Tunisia 67.1 years, Algeria 65.6 years, Libya 62.4, Morocco 60.9, Sudan 51.2, Djibouti 48.3, Mauritania 47.4 and Somalia 46.4).

Number of children per mother stood at 5.8 in Jordan and Iraq compared with 7.3 in Yemen, 6.8 in Oman, 6.5 in Saudi Arabia, 6.3 in Syria, 4.6 in the UAE, 4.5 in Qatar, 4.2 in Egypt, 3.8 in Kuwait and Bahrain and 3.2 in Lebanon.

(Comparable figures for non-ESCWA Arab countries were: seven in Somalia, 6.6 in Djibouti, 6.5 in Libya and Mauritania, 5.9 in Sudan, five in Algeria, 4.2 in Morocco and 3.6 in Tunisia).

Maternal mortality rate stood at 48 for every 100,000 births in Jordan compared with 800 in Yemen, 140 in Syria, 120 in Egypt and Iraq, 41 in Saudi Arabia, 19 in Bahrain and six in Kuwait. It was not immediately clear how accurate a comparison could be since the figure for Jordan did not indicate the relevant year while other figures were designated as related to 1980-1991.

(Comparable figures for non-ESCWA Arab countries were: 1,100 in Somalia, 550 in Sudan, 300 in Morocco, 140 in Algeria, and 70 in Libya and Tunisia).

The survey found that the Jordanian workforce was 23 per cent of the total population in 1990-1992.

The female component of the labour force was 10 per cent. This compares with 29 per cent in Egypt, 27 per cent in Lebanon, 24 per cent in Kuwait, 18 per cent in Bahrain and Syria, 13 per cent in Yemen, eight per cent in Oman, seven per cent in Qatar and Saudi Arabia and

six per cent in the UAE.

In Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, the survey said, the large majority of women work in the agricultural, industrial and services sectors in addition to the traditionally "female-labelled jobs."

"However, breakthroughs are being discerned as women enter new fields which were traditionally reserved for men as the police force, law and law enforce-

ment, and engineering...." it said.

In Jordan, 10 per cent of the female workforce were employed in agriculture, 26 per cent in industry and the rest in the services sector, the survey found.

Among the observations the survey made were indicators of women in public life. It noted that women did not enjoy the right to vote in any of the Gulf Cooperation

Council countries and in Yemen. By contrast, Syria gave women the right to vote in 1949, followed by Egypt in 1956, and Jordan in 1973. It did not give the year when Lebanon extended the voting right to women.

A comparison of the status of women among ESCWA countries based on the survey was not possible since its figures were based on the year 1987.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday chairs a workshop for NGOs on population and development (Petra photo)

Queen chairs population, development workshop

AMMAN (Petra) — At a workshop chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor to prepare for the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in September, Minister of Labour Khaled Ghazawi Monday said that the high rate of population growth in Jordan makes it incumbent on the government and the concerned authorities to revise the country's socio-economic programmes.

The high growth rate from births and forced

migrations have rendered current plans and policies on dealing with unemployment and poverty obsolete and created significant pressure on health, education and social services, said the minister.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Jordanian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) concerned with population issues in the country.

Mr. Ghazawi called on the NGOs to launch strong and

active cooperation with the government to help fulfil the aspired social and population development goals.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sqour said the ultimate goal of a developmental programme is ending poverty and attaining social justice. Population and natural resources are essential elements in development and one can not be considered in isolation of the other, said Dr. Sqour.

Working papers on population and development were presented by the University of Jordan, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

The workshop was called to focus on ways to strengthen the role played by NGOs at the coming Cairo conference and the exchange of expertise among NGOs in Jordan to produce a more effective strategy for the conference.

Shmeisani cultural nights to continue despite merchants' petition — mayor

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Municipality plans to continue its weekly, open-air cultural event in the Shmeisani district despite protests by local merchants and restaurant owners, according to Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Dr. Abbadi told the Jordan Times Monday that a commercial section of the district will be shut off to vehicles between 7:00 p.m. and midnight each Thursday.

Last week the municipality closed several streets in the area, and the Jordanian Armed Forces Band and other entertainers were brought to perform.

Representatives of the district's business sector protested the municipality's action, claiming that the closure of the area to vehicles prevented customers from reaching their stores or restaurants, Dr. Abbadi said.

In their petition to the mayor, the merchants said that although they appreciated the municipality's efforts to stimulate social life in Amman, the move must not be at the expense of the business sector.

But the municipality believes that the Thursday evening events would benefit the business sector while offering the public a chance to enjoy the talents of local folk troupes, Dr. Abbadi said.

Government to pursue obligatory pre-marital genetic testing

By Rana Sabbagh

AMMAN (R) — Government efforts to try and curb hereditary diseases launched by former Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas will be carried on as promised by his successor, Aref Batayneh. The authorities want all couples to take medical tests before they tie the knot.

But the issue has prompted a difficult debate. On one side are medical science and the need to control the cost of treating those offspring of such marriages with congenital illnesses.

On the other are tradition, a fear of gossip and fatalism. "Whatever comes from God is good," said 24-year-old Mariam Ahmad, pregnant mother of three haemophiliacs outside a hospital where her sons were receiving their regular blood transfusions.

"I am sure after all this misery God will give me a normal baby," said the woman, who married her first cousin.

Her children are among Jordan's 800 registered sufferers from haemophilia, an inability of the blood to clot, and thalassemia, a potentially fatal defect in red blood cells.

Both diseases are genetic and eat up JD 1.5 million of the health ministry's annual JD 9 million budget for medical treatment.

With diabetes, they are among the most common congenital diseases in Jordan.

Officials say the high cost of treatment triggered the government's idea for mandatory medical tests to advise couples on possible hereditary problems.

"One of the main ways to get rid of thalassemia, for example, is to prevent marriages between people who have the thalassaemic trait," Dr. Malhas told Reuters in an interview.

Syria, Lebanon and Morocco are the only Arab countries to make such tests compulsory.

Chief Islamic Justice Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi, gave a vital green light by ruling that the tests would not violate Islamic teachings. Each couple would show a completed medical form to the sheikh performing their wedding.

The government is stopping short of trying to block marriages. Regardless of the results of the tests, it would still be up to the couple to decide if they wanted to pursue their marriage plans.

"The health ministry cannot for any reason interfere in the personal freedom of anyone's right to choose his or her partner," said Dr. Malhas, who is a surgeon. "But couples will be advised what to expect if they get married and have children."

He said most couples cared more about the social standing and wealth of each other's family. "The only thing they do not ask about is whether he or she suffers from any

diseases." A study of 2,000 households in Jordan found 32 per cent of marriages were between first cousins, 6.8 per cent between second cousins and 10.5 per cent involved more distant relatives. Only half of marriage partners were not related.

The study, published in the American Journal of Medical Genetics in 1992, was conducted by Sami Khoury of the Department of Community Health at the University of Jordan and his assistant Diana Massad. They are now studying links between consanguinity and infertility.

Dr. Khoury, a graduate of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, and colleagues say pre-marital tests are long overdue. But they say that they must be implemented with a firm understanding of Jordan's closely knit society.

"It is a very good idea but a very costly one," he said. "It is going to be a complete battery of tests ... who will pay for that?"

It is not clear if the state, which offers free medical care to over half the population, will.

"Another issue is the social problem," adds Dr. Khoury, a driving force behind establishing Jordan's first genetic laboratory. "If the family had a genetic problem nobody would marry their children. How could you keep this as a secret ... there is no secrecy."

Ministry wants citizens' help to green country — official

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture is seeking citizens' assistance in greening the country and it continues to cooperate with international organisations towards this goal, according to ministry secretary general Ghaleb Abu Orabi.

Addressing the opening session of a symposium on public involvement in creating forests and pasture lands, Mr. Abu Orabi said that only 0.85 per cent of the total area of Jordan is covered with trees.

The ministry plans to plant forests on at least 139,000 hectares, but has so far succeeded only in planting trees

on 7,500 hectares, said Mr. Abu Orabi.

According to the secretary general the minimum, internationally-agreed percentage of land that should be covered by trees is 10 per cent of a country's area, and to reach that goal in Jordan, strenuous efforts on the part of the government and people, are needed, not only to protect the existing forests but also to implement a long-term afforestation plan.

To attain the 10 per cent level, Jordan has to annually plant trees on at least 200,000 dunums, a task that would require 160 years at the current pace of tree-planting.

Mr. Abu Orabi said. Referring to pasture lands in Jordan, he said they are estimated to be one million dunums, but they are all exposed to soil erosion.

The Ministry of Agriculture is currently receiving assistance from international experts to extend the area of forest lands and create pasture lands, Mr. Orabi added.

At the symposium, organised in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), participants reviewed several working papers dealing with afforestation and pasture lands.

Scientific research problems examined

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University intends to advance faculty research and publications to benefit the country's economy, university president Marwan Kamal Monday said.

Addressing the opening of a three-day symposium on scientific research and publication, Dr. Kamal thanked the Arab Union of Scientific

Research Councils (AUSRC) and Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) for organising the symposium at Yarmouk University.

AUSRC secretary general Taha Nueini addressed the opening session outlining the union's programmes and activities designed to encourage publication of scientific work

in the Arab World saying that the union is badly in need of data banks to be set up throughout the region.

In the three-day meeting attended by researchers from Jordan and several Arab countries, participants will discuss papers dealing with publication of research and problem facing researchers and publishers.



EXAM TIME: Students at the country's community colleges Monday begin their comprehensive diploma examinations for the current academic year. Higher education ministry sources said that the number of students taking the exams this year totals 17,989 in 82 specialisations (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

TV5 PROGRAMME

- ☆ Programme entitled "Geopolis" transmitted by TV5 Europe Station at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.
- ☆ American film entitled "The Dead Poets Society" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- ☆ ABC News Highlights and MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

PIANO RECITAL

- ☆ Piano recital at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan Shaban at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ☆ Plastic art exhibition by Hussein Da'ssih at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art (Tel. 695291).
- ☆ Exhibition entitled "Arab Artists in France" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Luweibdeh, off Al Muntazah Circle (Tel. 630128).
- ☆ Sculpture and ceramic exhibition by Iraqi artist Laith Al Turk at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).
- ☆ Exhibition by plastic artist Kheiri Harzallah at the Jordanian Plastic Association in Shmeisani (Tel. 699914).
- ☆ Exhibition by artist Bishara Al Najjar at the Orient Gallery for Fine Arts, Gardens Str. (Tel. 698513).
- ☆ Painting exhibition by Iraqi painters "The Pioneers Group" at Al Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451).
- ☆ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720677).

Panama president-elect says will accept Haiti refugees

CITY (Agencies) — Panama president-elect Ernesto Endara said Sunday he would accept a million refugees at a military base in Panama for six months.

Endara, speaking to reporters before starting his term, said he would accept the refugees in Panama for six months.

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negotiator Sol Linowitz to discuss Haitian refugee havens.

Mr. Linowitz nearly 20 years ago negotiated the Panama Canal Treaty for the United States, under which control of the waterway reverts to Panama by the year 2000.

Mr. Endara has said he changed his mind about accepting the refugees because a U.S. request to house them at American military bases would violate the treaty.

He said last week that he had been bullied into his initial consent by the United States. Political experts suggested that Mr. Endara's reversal came because of intense local criticism.

Mr. Endara said after meeting Mr. Linowitz Saturday that Panama would not take in the refugees unless there was a "national accord" involving Mr. Perez.

At a second meeting with Linowitz Sunday, Mr. Endara repeated his refusal to accept the refugees at U.S. military bases, according to Roberto Aleman, president of Panama's Foreign Relations Council.

During the past week, U.S. officials have pressed several Caribbean nations to help provide safe havens for the thousands of Haitians taking to the sea to escape their homeland.

The U.S. Coast Guard has picked up more than 14,000 Haitian boat people so far this month, a record. But the torrent of boat people slowed over the weekend, with Coast Guard cutters rescuing a total of 641 Saturday and Sunday.

The Clinton administration said last week that Haitians fleeing their politically troubled nation by sea would not be eligible for resettlement in the United States. Only those Haitians who seek political asylum at the U.S. embassy in Port-au-Prince will be eligible to come to the United States.

The U.S. government has also persuaded Grenada, Antigua and Dominica to accept small numbers of the Haitian refugees, while others are temporarily housed at a U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Conditions in Haiti have steadily worsened since a military coup toppled elected president Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991, and international economic sanctions were slapped on the country.

Washington has increasingly hinted at possible military action to restore Mr. Aristide.

But Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Sunday the United States was not seeking an excuse to invade the Caribbean country.

"We certainly aren't looking for an excuse to invade Haiti," he said in an interview with Reuters. "We are prepared to use force if necessary to protect U.S. interests."

President Clinton's special envoy on Haiti, William Gray, said Sunday that U.S. interests were "broader" than reinstating Haiti's ousted president.

"I think our interests are broader than Mr. Aristide, even though Mr. Aristide does represent the democratically elected person, by two-thirds of the (1990)

territory under their control. By some counts, as much as a sixth of Cambodia is under their sway."

In his broadcast, Khieu Samphan invited like-minded Cambodians "in rural regions, all provinces, in Phnom Penh and outside the country" to join the provisional government.

The provisional government's goal is to eliminate Vietnamese influence in Cambodia and achieve national reconciliation to prevent Cambodia from becoming "a second Kampuchea Krom," he said.

Kampuchea Krom is the term Cambodians use to designate the former lower Cambodia, the southern delta area where present-day Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) is located and which Vietnam occupied in the 18th-19th centuries.

Khieu Samphan said the decision to form an opposition government was also motivated by the Cambodian parliament's decision last week to outlaw the Khmer Rouge, a move inspired by "the Vietnamese Communists and their Phnom Penh puppets."

The assembly voted unanimously, 103-0, in favour of the bill outlawing the Khmer Rouge.

The law contains a list of tough measures, including the power to arrest members of the radical faction and sentence them to stiff prison terms ranging from 20 years

to life, and seize their assets abroad.

Sok An said he did not think the guerrillas could escape sanctions by merely declaring themselves a provisional government.

"How can they escape, because the National Assembly represents the will of the Cambodian people?" he said.

"I do not think there is a government in the world that would recognise this group of people."

The official headquarters of the provisional government will be in Preah Vihear province, according to the radio report. It did not give a specific location, but the Khmer Rouge are known to be well-entrenched in the region.

Khieu Samphan named six other ministers in his cabinet and said further appointments would be announced later.

The provisional government's seven-member cabinet list included Chan Youn, whom the guerrillas named deputy premier, foreign minister and minister for Khmer culture and literature.

The guerrillas' announcement comes at a time when, for many observers, the Phnom Penh coalition government is on the ropes.

The coalition is an uneasy amalgam of factions that fought alongside the Khmer Rouge against Cambodia's former Vietnamese-backed regime as well as men who used to be their arch foes in that regime.

Both incidents were seen as a clear warning from mainly Catholic Irish Republican extremists, who oppose Britain's rule of Northern Ireland, ahead of the marching season.

Police said at least 20 shots were fired at Rev. McCrea's home in Magherafelt, County Londonderry. His wife and children were at home when the attack occurred.

"There was a definite and clear indication they intended to leave with bodies left on the ground when the night was over," Rev. McCrea said.

Meanwhile, the Irish government denied Sunday that an IRA bomber, serving a life sentence for the murder of Lord Mountbatten, was secretly released from prison to help in the peace negotiations in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Lukashenko, who is expected to begin his five-year term within two months of Sunday's run-off poll, secured 80.1 per cent of the vote against 14.1 per cent of Keibich, the Electoral Commission announced.

The election of the 39-year-old has so far raised no official reaction from Moscow, where he was often compared to ultra-nationalist Russian leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Mr. Lukashenko campaigned on an anti-corruption ticket denouncing misuse of public funds within the government and calling for closer ties with Russia.

His popularity rose steadily as the country's economic woes worsened with monthly inflation riding at 28 per cent in May.

The new president-elect, who has called for fixed prices, an end to privatisation and a ban on private ownership of land, promised Sunday

Polks before the first election round in June showed he had particularly strong backing among pensioners, peasants and the working class and unemployed.

But observers say the main key to bringing the country out of its economic slump will be closer ties with Russia, where the situation looks enviable to a people whose average monthly salary is about \$20.

Moscow earlier this month reached an agreement with Mr. Keibich pushing further a proposed monetary union between the two former Soviet republics.

Observers also noted that Mr. Lukashenko had excluded from his campaign any mention of the country's remaining Soviet era nuclear arsenal.

Four post-Soviet governments have failed to draw up a comprehensive package of reforms and living standards have fallen far below those in neighbouring Russia.

Mr. Kuchma's win looked certain to inflame a huge ideological divide between nationalist western and conservative eastern Ukraine.

He got only a scattering of votes in Sunday's run-off in the west. He is viewed with deep suspicion by nationalists who seek his call for better ties with Moscow as the first step in unravelling hard-won Ukrainian independence.

"Kuchma won because he has a comprehensive programme to solve the crisis," Mr. Kuchma's press secretary Dmytro Tabachnyk said.

Mr. Kravchuk had trailed Mr. Kuchma for months in opinion polls, but pulled even in the final weeks of campaigning by stressing his role as a statesman able to unite nationalist western Ukraine and maintain social peace.

Mr. Kuchma, for six years director of the world's largest missile plant in Dnipropetrovsk, was prime minister for 11 months before resigning last September.

Both MPs said they had been set up by the newspaper and threatened to take it to court.

The Sunday Times said it had approached 10 Conservative and 10 Labour MPs and that none of the latter had agreed to take money for tabling questions.

Mr. Riddick and Mr. Tredinnick were suspended from their posts as private ministerial secretaries but not as MPs. Ministers choose such secretaries as liaisons with the parliament.

Mr. Riddick tabled the

question but returned the £1,000 check when the Social Security Department said it had no record of a firm called Githins, the paper said.

Mr. Riddick, 38, insisted that he had decided not to accept the money. He said he decided it would be "inappropriate" to accept the fee because the amount of work was very small and he did not know much about the background of the businessman.

Mr. Tredinnick, 44, said he had acted in good faith trying to help someone he thought was a businessman. "I did not expect to receive a cheque from him... I refused to accept a cheque from him and in any case I had

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MARKING THE BORDER: A Russian soldier carries a pack of barbed wire, as the poles lay behind him on the Russo-Estonian border in Pskov region. Russian border guards are making preparations to mark the border. Russian troops will leave eastern Germany and Latvia as planned by the end of August but there are still problems about Estonia, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in Naples, Italy, Sunday at the end of the Group of Seven summit. "We have already withdrawn our troops from Lithuania. By Aug. 31 we will leave Germany and Latvia. In Estonia the situation is more difficult, because of violation of minority rights," Mr. Yeltsin said at a joint press conference with his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton.

Mr. Clinton visited the Baltics before coming to Naples, calling for a swift Russian withdrawal. Mr. Yeltsin would not comment on discussions between the two over the issue but recalled that Mr. Clinton had also said that "minority rights should be respected." The G-7 summit issued a statement Sunday calling for protection of minority rights in the region. Moscow has singled out Estonia for criticism of its treatment of its ethnic Russian minority, which includes many retired Soviet soldiers who are demanding pension and other rights. Estonia wants to treat the settlers as foreigners (AFP photo)

Hutu moderate: Rwanda rebels must not seek revenge

BRUSSELS (R) — Hutu moderate Faustin Twagiramungu, who hopes to take over as Rwandan prime minister this week, said Monday that victory by the rebels should lead to reconciliation and not revenge.

"The total victory by the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) should not provide an occasion for revenge, but rather one for national reconciliation," Mr. Twagiramungu told a news conference in Brussels.

"The credibility of the RPF will depend on whether it starts to collaborate with all of those who want to rebuild their country and reject a cultural policy based on hate and exclusion," he added.

Mr. Twagiramungu told Reuters he would be leaving Brussels for Africa later Monday and hoped to be in the Rwandan capital Kigali by Thursday at the latest.

"I will be meeting all the different groups in Kigali (to form a new government)," he added.

The Tutsi-led RPF which has been fighting Hutu-dominated forces of the former government, announced last week it planned to form a new government with Mr. Twagiramungu at its head.

He had been designated prime minister in a transitional government but never took office because the RPF and the government failed to implement a peace agreement reached last August in Arusha, Tanzania.

Mr. Twagiramungu reiterated earlier remarks that the former ruling party, the MRND (National Republican Movement for Development and Democracy), would not be included in a new government.

"This party formed militias, armed them and conducted massacres and the genocide in Rwanda. The MRND violated the ethical code to which it had subscribed (under the Arusha Accord)," he said.

"The extremists who organized and programmed the Rwandan apocalypse are not any different from the Nazis and should be treated as

such, from all points of view," he said.

Outlining challenges for a new government, Mr. Twagiramungu said it would have to establish who was responsible for the genocide in Rwanda, which has claimed over 500,000 lives since April.

In addition, more than three million displaced people would have to be returned to their homes as soon as possible and economic activity relaunched in the war-ravaged country.

He said the new government would quickly make contact with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other financial bodies to examine the country's debt problem.

Health issues such as sanitation and preventing the spread of epidemics also needed urgent attention.

"Faced by this enormous task, I invite in the name of my people, the international organizations and especially non-governmental organizations to help Rwanda to find some stability," he said.

France should have intervened in Rwanda as early as April, Mr. Twagiramungu said.

"On the 7th (April) people were being killed without

anyone intervening. It was

incredible. It's good thing the French have come to give humanitarian aid, but it might be a little late," he said.

The ethnic bloodbath in Rwanda between the majority Hutus and the minority Tutsis began when President Juvénal Habyarimana, a Hutu, died in a suspect air crash on April 6.

The Arusha Accord was signed between the Rwandan government and the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front after nearly three years of civil war but was not completely implemented and the transitional government was never sworn in.

Mr. Twagiramungu told the French daily: "The figure of half a million dead in the massacres has been given by non-government organizations present in the country such as the Red Cross and the (U.N.) High Commissioner for Refugees."

"But," he added, "as these bandits and assassins had the freedom of the hills, I presume the final count might be much higher. These estimates seem credible but, unfortunately, we will never know exactly how many died in this genocide."

France's prime minister and foreign minister were

conducting lightning visit to the United Nations Monday to convince members that U.N. troops need to get to Rwanda quickly so French forces can be withdrawn.

France not only wants to pull its troops out by the end of the month or shortly after that but make sure humanitarian supplies are sent immediately to hundreds of thousands of refugees, mainly Hutus, pouring into a safe zone set up by French troops in southwestern Rwanda and nearby areas.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppé were to arrive on a morning Concorde flight and plan to take the same aircraft back about four hours later.

Before Mr. Balladur addresses the Council, the two ministers were expected to see Secretary-General Boutros Ghali. They were also expected to meet peacekeeping officials as well as Peter Hansen, the U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

Mr. Juppé said almost 900,000 refugees fleeing the advancing Rwanda Patriotic Front were pouring into France's safe haven and called the situation "catastrophic."



A French paratrooper evacuates a Tutsi woman and her child from the western Rwandan region of Kibuye to protect them against fighting between the Rwandan Patriotic Front and government troops and massacres, mostly perpetrated by Hutu militiamen (AFP photo)

Oil strike pushes Nigeria towards paralysis

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian commuters faced a second week of hardship Monday with a strike by blue collar oil workers demanding the release of detained politician Moshood Abiola showing no sign of easing.

Some oil industry sources forecast virtual paralysis from Tuesday when the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PEN-GASSAN) is expected to throw its weight behind striking junior oil workers.

"We are looking at a total shutdown of Nigeria," one said.

Traffic was light in the usually vibrant metropolis of Lagos, Nigeria's commercial nerve centre. Thousands of commuters trickled to work with fuel-starved public buses either parked at terminals or at petrol stations.

"Not one of my staff has come in this morning," said Vincent Dosumu, owner of a printing shop in the Latiagi area of the city.

stations still selling fuel further lengthened while many outlets went dry and shut down.

"Diesel is very scarce and that is what most of the big commuter buses use," said a fuel station operator.

"If the strike continues no one will be on the road this time next week," he added.

Transport fares have shot up so steeply it makes no sense for low-income workers to pay them.

The commuter woes come on top of spiralling prices for bread, which have shot up by 50 per cent this month due to a drop in wheat imports caused by a shortage of hard currency.

The 150,000-member National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) launched the indefinite strike last Monday, demanding that Mr. Abiola, the undeclared winner of last year's annulled presidential election, be set free.

The impact was immediate as long petrol queues formed

quickly. Newspapers reported the strike was having the same punishing impact on commuters in other parts of the vast West African nation of 89 million people.

The military government responded by detaining Frank Kokori, the general secretary of NUPENG and also ordered soldiers to take over distribution of fuel.

State television Sunday showed pictures of soldiers loading fuel at depots across the country but motorists said they were yet to feel the effect of the military operation.

"The truth is there is no fuel and the suffering continues," said banker Demola Abbe, who left home early Monday to queue for petrol but was still a long way from getting any after more than five hours on the meandering line.

PENGASSAN, with about 8,000 members including supervisors, is protesting against Mr. Abiola's detention as well as the decay in

Nigeria's oil industry, the backbone of the country's economy.

Oil sales account for more than 90 per cent of Nigeria's foreign exchange income, which last year stood at \$10 billion.

Oil Minister Don Eribeet said on state radio the government had long been implementing some of the demands made by PENGASSAN to improve the industry and urged the union not to strike.

But in a statement at the weekend, PENGASSAN said the seven-day ultimatum it had given the government still stands.

"Accordingly, all members are directed to begin an indefinite industrial action from July 12, 1994 until otherwise directed by the national body," said the statement signed by PENGASSAN General Secretary Milton Dabibi.

The strike will add to the problems of military ruler General Sani Abacha.

Bosnian Muslims back U.N. truce

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Muslim Vice-President Ejup Ganic gave his backing Monday to a renewal of a tattered month-long truce which expired at the weekend.

"We will finish this job," Mr. Ganic said of efforts to renew a ceasefire, intended to pave the way to a lasting peace, but which has been violated at will by both Muslims and Serbs.

The move came as Bosnian rivals fanned a choice whether to accept a major power-sponsored, last-ditch peace plan this week or risk worse fighting and tougher international sanctions.

The warning was underlined by the world's richest states, conferring as the Group of Seven industrial democracies, in Naples at the weekend.

The United Nations reported heavy shelling in clashes between Serbs and Muslims on key battle lines in north central Bosnia and more fighting in the north-western Bihać enclave.

The Serbs have already indicated they will support a renewal of the ceasefire agreed in Geneva on June 8 and which came into force two days later.

United Nations spokesman Claire Grimes told reporters in Sarajevo that U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi, who has been negotiating to extend the truce over the last few days, would pursue his efforts Tuesday.

"We have indications both sides will agree in principle to an extension of the June 8 agreement and to that effect Mr. Akashi will continue negotiations including a meeting tomorrow with Mr.

Ganic," Ms. Grimes said.

"We're not looking for a signed agreement right now, we're looking for a confirmed verbal agreement. Mr. Akashi is hoping that both sides will continue to honour the spirit of the June 8 agreement."

Mr. Ganic told a news conference that the truce agreement would include a pledge from the U.N. to do everything in its power to stop "ethnic cleansing" of minority Muslims and Croats in the Serb-held Banja Luka area of northern Bosnia.

Ms. Grimes said Mr. Akashi had been trying to visit Banja Luka for months but had been prevented from doing so by the Bosnian Serbs who would not undertake to guarantee his safety.

"We're hoping a visit will take place in the future and also that we'll be able to open a civil affairs office and introduce a number of civilian policemen," Ms. Grimes said.

Pressed on why Mr. Akashi had not made the visit earlier, Ms. Grimes said: "He's been asking for a guarantee to go to Banja Luka and he's now carrying on with those negotiations."

"The time at the moment is not right while other political negotiations are continuing," U.N. officials and aid workers have for months been reporting a sustained campaign of killings, violence and other harassment aimed at driving Muslims and Croats out of Banja Luka and the surrounding areas.

Banja Luka would remain in Serb hands under the terms of the latest international peace plan, which awards the Muslim-Croat federation 51 per cent of Bos-

nia and the rest to the Serbs, who currently hold 70 per cent.

Leaders of the Group of Seven industrial nations and Russia ended their summit in Naples Sunday with a warning to the rival Bosnian factions that they should accept the peace plan or risk igniting a wider war.

British Prime Minister John Major, repeating the message on Monday, stressed the importance of a visit to Bosnia this week by his Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, aimed at persuading Muslims and Serbs to accept the plan.

"For too long the Bosnians on one side and the Serbs on the other have waited for what for them would be the perfect set of proposals," Mr. Major said on Britain's BBC Radio.

"Well, the perfect set of proposals is not available. We do not want to see this slide back into the sort of war which existed in the past then perhaps accelerate, conceivably into a full-scale Balkan war," he said.

If the factions do not agree, U.N. troops may be pulled out and the arms embargo on Bosnia lifted.

Shelling continued in the northern Bosnian region of Orzén Sunday, but infantry assaults petered out with no apparent advances on the ground, the United Nations said.

During the afternoon, there were 148 explosions along the eastern Orzén front and 119 on its southern front, U.N. spokesman Eric Chaperon said.

Orzén is a mountain range extending into Bosnian

government-held territory in the north of the country. Sarajevo forces would like to drive a wedge through the area to better link up their territory in central and northern Bosnia.

A major Bosnian offensive, involving 15 brigades, was launched on June 28 against Serb forces, U.N. sources said here.

The surprise attack in a poorly defended area nearly achieved its objective as government forces punched their way through Serb lines in the southern part of the enclave on three fronts and advanced in a pincer movement three to four kilometres.

But the attack ran out of steam as government forces proved unable to bring in more troops and the Serbs reinforced with units from the northern Pozavina Corridor.

The Serbs then launched a counter-offensive, rolling back Bosnian forces who lost three to four villages in the area. The Serbs later withdrew to their own lines, laying down a minefield in their wake. Advancing Bosnian soldiers wandered into the minefield, were pinned down and came under heavy Serb artillery fire which decimated their ranks.

Local hospitals filled up with casualties and one Bosnian brigade refused orders to continue the advance.

The Serbs have regained their lost territory, but they are now demanding a withdrawal of all forces to the June 10 ceasefire lines as a condition for renewing the month-long ceasefire in order to publicise the Bosnian offensive.

Russia expects Serb 'yes, but...' to Bosnia map

GENEVA (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev has warned major Western powers that rebel Serbs will give at best a qualified "yes, but..." to the latest peace map dividing Bosnia, diplomatic sources said Monday.

Sources close to the Geneva peace negotiations on Bosnia said Mr. Kozyrev's prediction was made Sunday at the Group of Seven summit in Naples which discussed the latest peace plan.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was said to have bluntly responded by telling the Russian "yes but..." means "no."

The map, drawn up by a five-nation "contact group" on Bosnia was presented to

the Bosnian factions last week after being endorsed by Mr. Christopher, Mr. Kozyrev and the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany.

The map will leave the Serbs, who currently control around two-thirds of the country, with 49 per cent of the land and give a new Muslim-Croat federation the rest.

The Bosnian factions have until next Tuesday to decide on the plan. Instead of returning to Geneva, diplomats expect them to be invited to a German government guesthouse near Bonn — where the ministers could also gather — to give their answers.

Bosnia's Muslim leaders and President Alija Izetbegovic have said they expect to accept the plan, if only because they think their Serb foes will reject it and face the consequences laid down by the major powers.

Those include a tightening of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro and even a possibility that Bosnia's Muslim and Croat allies could be exempted from the U.N. arms embargo on the whole of the former Yugoslavia.

The contact group plan is the first time that all the major powers have attempted to find a common strategy on Bosnia and stop the various factions playing their foreign allies off against each other.

Mr. Kozyrev was said to

have told his Western colleagues that neither Moscow nor Serbia itself could guarantee to deliver the Bosnian Serbs.

Mr. Kozyrev explained that although Russia has traditional ties with the Serbs, helping them fight the Turks during the days of the Ottoman Empire, relations over the last 50 years between the old Soviet Union and Communist Yugoslavia were much more complicated.

Although Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic is also prepping the Bosnian Serbs to accept the latest map, Mr. Kozyrev said he expected their leader Radovan Karadzic to tie conditions to any acceptance.

Clinton makes 1st visit to Germany as president

BONN (AP) — President Bill Clinton, on his first official visit to Germany, today vowed to work with Western European allies to help integrate "Europe's other half" as full economic and political partners.

Mr. Clinton, in a joint news conference with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, also said he favours a more aggressive international role for Germany — the United States' most powerful ally in Europe — now that the nation has been reunified.

"The heart of our discussion today is what we have to do to integrate Europe's other half," Mr. Clinton said, referring to Eastern and Central European countries formerly under Communist rule.

Germany's post-World War II constitution limits Germany's ability to send troops beyond its own borders. However, a German court is expected to rule on the legality of the ban this week.

Mr. Clinton is here for two days for a series of meetings, speeches and ceremonies designed to promote economic and political integration with former Communist states.

The president reached out to the nations of Central and Eastern Europe that had once been part of the Soviet Bloc, offering to "help them claim their place at the table with free and friendly nations of like mind."

Mr. Clinton is the first U.S. president to visit Bonn, the nation's present capital, since Germany was reunified in 1990. He also met with German President Roman Herzog.

Mr. Clinton called it "a moment of historic opportunity" and said that the integration of Western Europe "is well under way."

Mr. Kohl paid tribute to all the U.S. troops stationed in Germany since the end of World War II "who defended freedom and peace and security here for us" and hailed a "dramatic moment

of change in the world." The joint news conference took place under sunny skies at the gardens of the Chancellery.

Mr. Clinton's two-day visit comes on his way home from a summit meeting in Naples of the world's seven major industrial nations and Russia.

Both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Kohl were asked whether it was time to end the nearly half-century long prohibition that has kept Germany from deploying troops in combat roles beyond its borders — even though it has contributed forces to some U.N. humanitarian mission such as Somalia.

While suggesting he did not want to get involved in an internal German dispute, Mr. Clinton said: "Anything that can be done to enable Germany to fulfill leadership responsibilities... is a positive thing."

For his part, Mr. Kohl said it was "unacceptable" for Germany, now a unified country of 80 million people with one of the world's strongest economies, to continue to be bound by a restriction put in place after Germany's World War II surrender and partition.

"We cannot simply sit back and let others do the work. We will have to assume our international responsibilities," Mr. Kohl said.

Mr. Clinton also praised Germany for promoting NATO's partnership for peace programme, which has resulted in ties for 21 former Communist and neutral European nations with the Western alliance.

Mr. Kohl is up for election in October, and Mr. Clinton's visit may help his already improving showing in the polls.

Tactfully, Mr. Clinton also will meet opposition leaders, but Mr. Kohl will be front and centre throughout the two-day visit.

The president is also making up for not going to Germany on his trip to Europe in June. That trip celebrated the allied D-Day victory over Germany in World War II.

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CLINTONS AT POMPEI: U.S. President Bill Clinton shares a laugh with first lady Hillary Clinton shortly after the end of the G-7 industrialised nations summit (AFP photo)

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Clash of sevens

THERE WAS a time when the G-7 industrial countries would meet to discuss international economic trends as well as their own industrial and economic developments. All this has changed in the past few years, especially in the wake of the international order that emerged from the ashes of the old East-West confrontations. The just concluded G-7 group meeting in Naples has been an example of the changes that were introduced to the agenda of these states and the extent to which the scope of their collective interest has shifted. To be fair, the menu of the principal industrial nations was anything but totally economic. In the last meeting, however, much of the debate that the leaders of the group centred on was political matters ranging from the Bosnian situation to the Middle East conflict.

So the decision to shift attention of these mighty countries to major political issues affecting the globe calls for greater awareness and scrutiny by the developing countries.

The so-called Group of 77 comprising the developing states of the world must now regroup into a potent organisation that can face up to the new challenges posed by the developed countries on all issues and disputes that relate to them. This would suggest the establishment of a new Group of 77 that is serious and effective in the pursuit of its goals. The perspectives of the developed world is infinitely different from those of the poorer countries not only on economic matters but also on political concerns affecting the various regions of the world. The continued silence of the smaller and less developed states in the face of the expanding spheres of influence of the big G-7 countries would mean the relinquishing of the rights and interests of the majority members of the family of nations. Judging as well by the acceptance of Russia as another member of this highly influential group of nations, their numbers may soon increase as to include more countries, only to leave the rest of the world stranded with no effective voice. Countries like Jordan can and should start thinking about breathing new life into the dormant Group of 77 with a view to bringing it back into international affairs and the attempts to resolve international and regional flashpoints. The sooner this happens the better for the billions of people who remain voiceless.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE COMING visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher can only achieve success if the Arabs change their present position and demonstrate their intention towards reaching peace with their Arab neighbours, said Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al-Fajr. Mr. Christopher will discuss with the Israelis prospects for a settlement on the Israeli-Syrian track now the Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks are moving forward awaiting a final settlement, said the writer. Unless Mr. Christopher secures a commitment from the Israeli leaders for a withdrawal from all the occupied Golan Heights, the chances for a settlement with Syria remain slim, added the writer. Syria is not in a hurry to recover the lost lands and is determined to see the Israelis pulling out their forces from all the occupied lands before reaching a settlement with Israel, and therefore, the Syrian leaders are expected to reiterate their position which was already conveyed to the American president during his meeting in Geneva with the Syrian President, said the writer. Mr. Christopher can only end the deadlock, said the writer, if Israel changes its stand and makes a clear commitment to attain a lasting peace.

WE DO not believe that the reason behind the disappearance of local brands of cigarettes from the shelves of stores is merchants' keenness to protect public health against the hazards of smoking, said a columnist in Al-Rai daily Monday. The same merchants offer customers different brands under the table and for higher than the normal prices, according to Nazih. The writer said that the reason behind the manipulation is clear to all: Merchants want to create a crisis which offers the opportunity to make more money by cheating the public and violating the law. Prosecutors who try to amass fortunes at the expense of the public should be exposed, he said. It is regrettable, said the writer, to see some merchants monopolising the market and getting away with their illegal actions.

The View from Fourth Circle

New political rules and old cultures

IT WAS a fascinating coincidence that virtually simultaneously this week the prime minister delivered a lecture in Amman praising Jordan's commitment to democratic pluralism, while 60 of the 80 members of the Lower House of Parliament sent a letter to His Majesty King Hussein complaining about the political style of the prime minister's relations with parliament. The coincidence speaks much of where we are today in our democratisation process in Jordan.

It is noteworthy that the complaints against Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali were not very substantive in nature. The disgruntled MPs did not particularly take his government to task for its policy orientation. The essence of the complaints reflects the Lower House's dissatisfaction with Dr. Majali's style of governance; the main complaint is that he tends to ignore the political sensitivities of the MPs, their political parties and their parliamentary blocs. More cynical commentators than myself also suggest that the fury of some MPs was unleashed because some of them did not get cabinet posts. Who knows?

In his speech to the World Affairs Council conference on Democracy in the Arab World, Dr. Majali noted correctly — as he usually does — that true democracy does not confine itself to relations between the rulers and the ruled, but that it permeates all social organisations, including schools, homes and public and private institutions.

The point the MPs raised, and that Dr. Majali should address, is whether democratic principles should also characterise relations between the executive and legislative branches. The answer, of course, is: Yes. Dr. Majali's manner of governance, however, suggests to the MPs and to many others in society that the substance of democratic institutionalisation in Jordan — Parliament, elections, parties and Parliamentary blocs — is not sufficiently complemented by his government's style of action.

This dichotomy between democratic substance and style may appear to be a minor issue to some observers. I would suggest that it touches upon the very heart of the nature and direction of our political culture in Jordan, and, by extension, in other parts of the Arab World.

This controversy first surfaced last year when the Majali government was named, and when the prime minister presented King Hussein's Speech from the Throne as the government's policy statement. Many MPs and other political activists and commentators, myself included, thought that Dr. Majali was insufficiently sensitive to the political sentiments of Parliament. The MPs then were not particularly concerned about opposing his policies; they just wanted the political recognition that can only come from him and his government. They wanted to flex their young muscles, to engage him in a good old fashioned and relatively harmless political brawl, and to put on a show that made them feel good about themselves and look good in front of their constituencies.

He could and should have found a way to reconcile constitutional decorum with political sentiment in the Lower House. He could and should have presented the Speech from the Throne as his government's policy programme, while also providing an additional political statement or addendum that would have satisfied the Parliament's desire to debate him a little bit about his ideology and a lot about his style.

I said then and I still believe that Dr. Majali should not shy away from such a flexible approach, for the combination of his personal stature and his sensible political programme assures him of a vote of confidence in the House. In his years of work in higher education, medical services, the peace process and now the Prime Ministry, Dr. Majali has probably single-handedly contributed as much to the development of modern Jordan as perhaps the sum total efforts of all the incumbent MPs.

History will surely recognise that. But by the criteria of the current stage of Jordan's political transformation, this legacy of service by Dr. Majali is judged to be admirable, but insufficient. The times we live in demand more than a perfunctory adherence to constitutional protocols. They demand a display of political passion, a willingness to play the democratic game by the new rules that, ironically, Dr. Majali himself praised in his lecture. The times demand a spirit of democratic consultation and give-and-take that permeates all institutions of society, and this is where the prime minister seems to disappoint Parliament.

The 60 MPs who wrote a letter to King Hussein complaining about Dr. Majali's style have taken the most serious step possible in the circumstances, given that they could not ask for a vote of confidence while Parliament is in recess. The letter of complaint itself is deeply instructive of the real power relationship that characterises Jordan today. The MPs recognise that His Majesty the King remains the ultimate arbiter of political controversy in Jordan; they are appealing to his proven good sense and his ample political sensibilities to prod the prime minister to play the game by the new rules.

This raises some important questions about the true nature of political transformation in Jordan today, for it is obvious this week that the style of our democratisation is at least as important as its substance. The MPs individually and collectively suggest by their action that they are dissatisfied by their apparently low credibility with two important sectors in society — the executive branch of government, and the public at large. They cannot change public perceptions very quickly, but perhaps they can get the prime minister to budge a bit. Consequently, they have taken the most sensible route available to them by appealing to the highest and most credible political authority in the land.

Their message, in fact, is intriguing. They are not asking Dr. Majali to change his government policies, for two reasons: They generally agree with his policies, and in any case they have an opportunity in Parliament to debate and

vote on those policies.

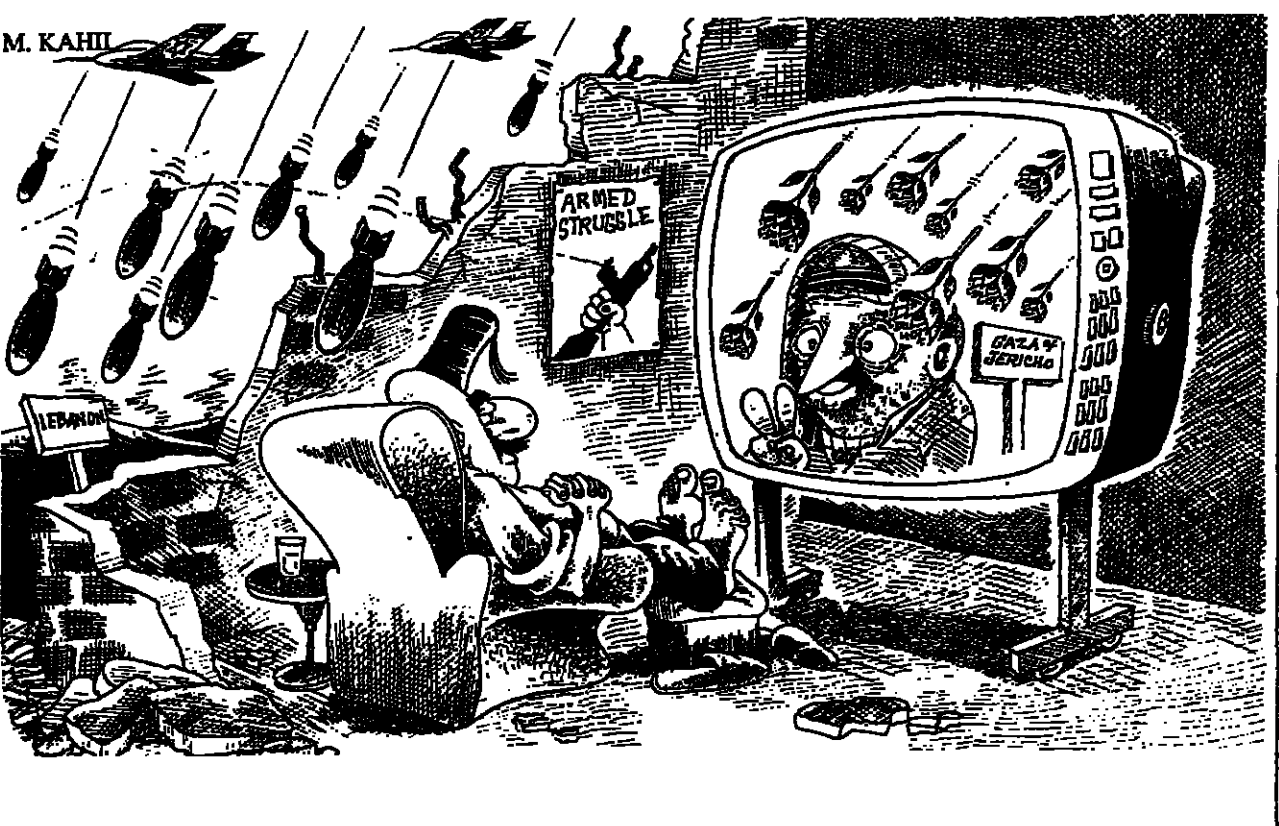
They are simply asking the government to give them more recognition, and generally to take them more seriously — which is an important and, I think, an accurate indicator of where we stand in our democratisation drive in Jordan.

The mere feeling of being consulted, of being taken seriously and treated with human dignity, is probably the single most important domestic political force that drives the transformation of our political culture. In recent years, following decades of absent political participation due to regional and domestic circumstances, the Islamists and the nationalists/leftists most forcefully expressed this passionate human desire for political participation and dignity.

The elections in 1989 and 1993 and the many other positive political changes that have taken place in Jordan since 1989 have generally satisfied most people's desires in this respect. This is why our post-1989 history, including severe economic restructuring and rapid political change, has been so peaceful and steady. The vast majority of Jordanians sense that their basic needs for dignity, good governance and hope for the future are met by the combination of reasonable government policies, continuing political liberalisation, improving socio-economic conditions and the vigilant presence and guarantee of King Hussein himself.

In an odd twist to the saga of our modern political culture, the centre of gravity of political frustration seems to have shifted from our homes and streets to the heart of the political system — the elected Lower House of Parliament. This is understandable, in view of the three key dynamics that we can identify in this respect: 1) The slightly old-fashioned manner of a prime minister whose considerable, top-level managerial experience and personal style may not always coincide fully with the requirements of political deal-making and horse-trading, 2) the inability of most MPs, political parties and Parliamentary blocs to develop substantial credibility with the public and, 3) the realisation that our political democratisation, though genuine, is still skewed in favour of the executive branch, while the institutionalisation of parliamentary life needs substantial reinforcement.

All of this is rather normal for a country like Jordan at its stage of national development. It is probably better to take our time and slowly evolve a more democratic and pluralistic political culture that will endure and grow, rather than to rush into adopting a system that will only collapse in due time, as others have collapsed in Jordan and throughout the Arab World in this half century. This means that form will often mean as much as content in the years to come, and style will be as important a criterion of one's political durability as substance. Of course, and by no coincidence, this is also the core component of Arab culture and social relationships that have been developed over thousands of years. For those who play by the new political rules, this indicates how important it is to remain sensitive to the ancient cultural rules.



Saudis could raise the stakes in Yemen

By Jerome Socolovsky
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — When King Abdul Aziz, the founder of Saudi Arabia, was on his deathbed, he was said to have told his sons, "The good or evil for us will come from Yemen."

Four decades later, the victory for government forces in Yemen's civil war has made Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies wonder what will come from Yemen now. A united, populous and democratic nation so close to their borders could bode ill for their oil-sustained monarchies.

The fall of Aden, the stronghold of separatist southern leader Ali Salem Al Beidh, on Thursday, was proclaimed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh as victory after nine weeks of war thought to have killed thousands.

But in a region where old resentments die hard, there already are fears that Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, which backed the secessionists, may want to settle scores by encouraging the losers to go on fighting as an exiled rebel front.

The war broke out May 4, four years after Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh merged North Yemen and South Yemen into a nation of 14 million people. The

United Yemen rivals Saudi Arabia as the Arabian Peninsula's most populous state — and it was the only avowedly democratic republic in the region.

But differing views in Yemen's conservative Muslim North and formerly Communist South over power sharing and the role of religion proved irreconcilable and prevented a merger of their armies.

The South charged throughout the conflict that the North's war machine was backed by Iraq and Sudan, both on unfriendly terms with Gulf states. Military sources in Sanaa have said that while Mr. Saleh's relations with these countries were cordial, there was no evidence to support the claim.

Yemen's sympathy, a few months after unification, towards Iraq and opposition to military intervention in the Kuwait crisis incensed Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf countries — Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain.

That miscalculation was seen as the main reason for their sympathy, encouragement and reported financial backing for the southern war effort.

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ment and reported financial backing for the southern war effort.

"They bet on the wrong horse," said Abdul Aziz Saqaf, chief editor of the Yemen Times, an independent English-language newspaper in Sanaa.

"Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states have lost quite a bit in terms of prestige," he added in a telephone interview from the Yemeni capital.

King Fahd summoned his cabinet Friday for an emergency meeting and "condemned and denounced" the North for prosecuting the war despite Saudi-sponsored U.N. resolutions calling for a ceasefire.

Although no explicit threats were made, the Saudis grudge might prompt them to support a rebel insurgency in Yemen, possibly led by Mr. Beidh in exile, pushing Mr. Saleh into the embrace of radical Arab regimes.

"They are mad as hell," said Michael Hudson, a Middle East specialist at Georgetown University in Washington.

But he warned such a policy could backfire and seriously destabilise the peninsula if Mr. Saleh, and his increasingly powerful Islamic fundamentalist allies within Yemen, choose to encourage anti-

government ferment in Saudi Arabia.

"We might be looking at prolonged low-level instability that could have negative consequences not only for Sanaa but also for Riyadh," he said.

Still, despite Saudi Arabia's history of playing one party off against another in Yemen with oil money and arms, the Yemenis traditionally have tried to avoid picking a fight with their richer neighbour.

Mr. Saqaf believes a lot will depend on whether Mr. Saleh keeps to that tradition and "holds out an olive branch" to the Saudis by offering once and for all to settle a border dispute dating back to a Saudi-Yemeni war in the 1930s.

But just as important will be whether Mr. Saleh fosters a spirit of reconciliation at home and includes pro-unity elements of his rival Socialist Party, undercutting attempts by Mr. Beidh and other would-be rebels to gain popular support.

That may be Mr. Saleh's only choice.

He needs the southemners' support to balance the fundamentalists, whose Islah Party surpassed the Socialists in last year's elections and became the country's second-largest party after his own.

Nuclear issue ticks away as N. Korea sorts future

By Jim Wolf

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Kim Il-Sung's death has thrown into question the fate of North Korea's spent nuclear reactor fuel, submerged in a pool of water and posing a threat of radioactivity.

The United States wants the North to ship the plutonium-rich fuel abroad for reprocessing, one of the key issues in sensitive bilateral talks that had just begun in Geneva last week. Mr. Kim's sudden death, which Pyongyang said occurred Friday, prompted the North Koreans to suspend the talks. That put on hold discussions of what to do about the fuel, which Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director James Woolsey said last month contained enough plutonium to build about five nuclear weapons in a few months.

The North Korean delegation said Sunday the talks had been suspended until after Mr. Kim's funeral, scheduled for July 17. The chief U.S. negotiator in the Geneva talks, Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci, said Sunday that Washington expected the North to "continue on the course that President Kim Il-sung had set just very recently of attempting to negotiate a settlement to the nuclear issue."

U.S. experts said the suspension was to be expected while Kim Jong-il, the late president's eldest son and chosen heir, took control, at least initially, of the North and its 5 million-member armed forces.

But the clock is ticking on the plutonium-laden fuel removed from the North's 25-megawatt reactor and placed in a water-filled storage pool early last month. That is because of chemical reactions that corrode the magnesium-oxide protective cladding on the rods.

David Albright, a nuclear expert who is president of the Institute for Science and International Security, a Washington research group, estimated that one year was the "outside limit" for safe storage of the rods in the pond.

Failure to remove them abroad for example, would pose a radioactive threat to workers, any international

inspectors present and to the environment.

"Ideally, long before that happens, North Korea should send its fuel overseas for storage and possible reprocessing," Mr. Albright said in a telephone interview.

In the Geneva talks, Washington had been seeking a North Korean commitment that the fuel rods would stay in a storage facility for the time being. They were placed in the pool to "cool," or lose radioactivity, before they could be reprocessed to gather plutonium, the chief ingredient in nuclear weapons.

Bob Gaskin, a former Pentagon strategist who follows Korea for Business Executives for National Security, a private group in Washington, said the raw material will be available for reprocessing starting next month.

"By the first or middle of August, everyone is going to start watching that pond real close," he said in an interview.

E.U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in Italy with President Bill Clinton for an economic summit, said Sunday that the administration was "very aware" of the "time sequence" involved with the spent fuel.

In an interview on NBC television's "Meet the Press," he said the United States would remain vigilant following the death of Mr. Kim, who formed North Korea in 1948 and was its only ruler.

"With a country with the history of North Korea... I think it's a time for real vigilance and careful watching by the United States," Mr. Christopher said.

U.S. analysts are awaiting any signs from Pyongyang that Kim Jong-il might take a more hardline position than his father in talks with Washington, possibly to cement the support of military officers wary of trading away their suspected nuclear weapons programme.

Joseph Bermudez, an expert on the North's military who is a consultant to the U.S. intelligence community, said many experts believe that Kim Jong-il's relationship with the military is strained on the basis of his reputation as an erratic manager.

Jordan does not expect smooth sailing

(Continued from page 1)

which the Jordanian delegation spokesperson, Dr. Marwan Muasher, says is an "implicit acceptance that there is something to be discussed in the way of water sharing."

Labelling Mr. Peres' claims as "ludicrous" and "skewed," Dr. Muasher points out that Israel has taken every drop of water from the Jordan River which "forms a natural border" and has taken much more than its rightful share from the Yarmouk River.

But these statements and counter-statements, as Jordanian officials are quick to point out, are the opening positions that are symptomatic of the process before negotiations begin.

"We have done all our homework," Dr. Muasher pointed out. "We have done a new survey of the occupied Jordanian territory and we have all the details and the facts."

Jordanians, while discussing the concessions and counter-concessions that preceded the Jordan-based talks, stress that the "package deal" that laid the ground for the Wadi Araba bilaterals and Dead Sea trilaterals will not include a signing of a peace treaty unless "all elements of the agenda have been completed."

"We will discuss feasibility studies, conclude partial agreements on water and territories ... we are ready to move as fast as we can on the different issues but we will not sign a peace treaty until it is all over," one Jordanian negotiator said.

This is why only two bilateral subcommittees, the water, energy and environment subcommittee and the security, border and land subcommittee, will be holding talks in Wadi Araba. Absent from these talks will be the economic bilateral committee and the refugees committee.

"We will not hold economic cooperation talks bilaterally with Israel," a Jordanian official confirmed.

"The trilateral meeting in the Dead Sea will be looking and studying feasibility studies for projects but we will not have economic cooperation pacts before the issues of territory and water are resolved."

"The trilateral meetings will be preparing the ground work but will not enter into serious negotiations," a negotiator told the Jordan Times. "The trilateral negotiating group will not cancel the economic committee that was formed in Washington."

But Jordanian negotiators say the Kingdom will deal differently with any agreements that may come out of the border and water bilateral negotiations.

"If we reach a border agreement or a water agreement tomorrow, we will implement it tomorrow," one negotiator said. "If one is asking me if we would be willing to implement a water agreement in two months, I will say yes, but if I am being asked whether there will be Israeli tourists in Amman in two months then I will say no."

In fact, the Jordanian negotiators are careful to underline Jordan's concern to separate the bilateral and trilateral talks on the one hand and to differentiate between reaching partial agreements and normalisation on the other.

"The bilateral talks will deal with the Jordanian rights ... which at this time is the most important issue for us," the Jordanian negotiator said. "The trilaterals will deal mostly with economic issues."

In the preparations for the Wadi Araba and Dead Sea talks, Jordanian officials are careful to ensure the "sequencing" between the two sets of talks is maintained.

"It is important to maintain the sequencing because we want to make a distinction between the two sets of talks," said the negotiator.

Peres says he will visit Jordan next week

(Continued from page 1)

close," to a peace agreement with Jordan, Mr. Peres told reporters.

He declined to speculate when a treaty could be signed, but said it also depended on progress with the

Syrians. Arab states have repeatedly said that formal treaties require a comprehensive settlement. Israel and Syria have deadlocked over control of the Golan Heights.

At the July 20 meeting, Jordan will push for Israeli

Israeli negotiators for first time to Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

bilaterals, one on borders and territory headed by Abdullah Touqan and another on water, energy and environment headed by Munther Haddadin, will only enter negotiations after the "modalities" have been worked out with the Israeli side.

In the meantime, preparations for the trilateral talks among the U.S., Jordan and Israel, scheduled for the Dead Sea area, were still being worked out Monday after initial plans that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would arrive in Jordan July 20, not July 22 as was initially planned.

"If Mr. Christopher arrives on July 20, as we are hearing today, the plan may change to arrange for

his arrival at the Wadi Araba site, where the bilaterals are being conducted, instead of the Dead Sea site for the trilaterals," Dr. Muasher said.

The trilateral talks, which will concentrate on economic cooperation, will begin on July 22 as per the original plan unless changes are introduced to fit in with Mr. Christopher's schedule.

Dr. Muasher would not say for sure if Mr. Peres will attend the opening ceremony of the trilaterals with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Mr. Christopher saying only that "Mr. Peres will probably attend."

Reuters quoted Mr. Peres in Jerusalem as saying that he will cross the border into Jordanian territory on July 20.

Dr. Muasher said, however, that Dr. Majali

Arafat bids farewell to Tunis

(Continued from page 1)

"For the first time, there is a departure but without being refugees," Mr. Arafat told journalists, stressing the contrast between Monday's formal ceremonies and the often forced departures that the PLO has had to make in the past.

Mr. Arafat told reporters at a midnight news conference Sunday that the PLO's Political Department, which functions as a foreign ministry, would stay in Tunis to maintain ties with about 70 countries. Some of these countries already have accorded diplomatic recognition to the state of Palestine which Mr. Arafat proclaimed in 1988.

Under the May 4 Israeli-PLO agreement, the Palestinian National Authority which will govern the Gaza Strip and Jericho is banned from establishing foreign ties during a five-year interim self-rule period.

Mr. Arafat also told the midnight news conference that Palestinian self-rule would be jeopardised unless money promised for reconstruction and development arrives quickly.

"Without the international support on all levels, peace will be in danger," he said.

Very little of the money pledged by international donors has come through, Mr. Arafat said. "The promises are plenty, but real implementation on the ground ... is very little."

He said unemployment in the Gaza Strip has passed 60 per cent, throwing its people "under the red line of starvation."

He thanked French President Francois Mitterrand for agreeing to put the Palestinian case at the just-ended Group of Seven summit of leading industrialised nations in Naples, Italy.

The summit called for speeding up the delivery of aid.

PLO, Israel resume talks

(Continued from page 1)

Other details left over from the May accord include establishing a corridor between Gaza and Jericho and boosting the Palestinian presence at transit points between Gaza and Egypt as well as between Jericho and Jordan, Dr. Shaath said.

Negotiators would discuss transferring civilian powers in the West Bank to the self-rule authority whose members were appointed by Mr. Arafat before tackling procedures for election to a self-rule council, he said.

Talks would then focus on

redeploying the Israeli army outside population centres in the West Bank and replacing them with Palestinian police.

Three joint commissions were expected to be set up to deal with:

- Problems left over from the May 4 accord.
- The transfer of civilian powers to Palestinians in the West Bank and the organisation of elections, expected in mid-October.
- A meeting between Israel, the Palestinians, Egypt and Jordan to tackle the Palestinian refugee problem.

North Korea signals continued quest

(Continued from page 1)

Korea.

"I think there is some small chance that he met his end other than with a heart attack," Mr. Gates who headed the CIA from November 1991 to January 1993, said on NBC's "Today" television programme.

Mr. Gates said such a plot was not the most likely explanation "but it can't be dismissed." If it did turn out Kim was killed, it could be bad news for future relations "and we may not know it for a long time," he said.

He said he believed Kim Jong-Il was "something of a flake," based on the information he had when he headed the CIA.

"Frankly I think he will have to bend in a direction that is congenial to the North Korean generals, and I don't think that's very encouraging," Mr. Gates said.

In Bonn, U.S. President Bill Clinton said Monday he had no reason to apologise to U.S. Korean war veterans for expressing condolences to North Korea on the death of President Kim.

Reporting to criticism from Senate minority leader Bob Dole, Mr. Clinton said at a news conference that he be-

lieved survivors of the war support efforts to stop a North Korean nuclear weapons programme. Mr. Clinton also welcomed North Korea's initial assurances that it will resume talks on its nuclear programme.

At a joint news conference with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr. Clinton said he hoped a summit between North and South Korea would be held as soon as possible.

Mr. Clinton had been criticised on Saturday by Mr. Dole, a possible Republican presidential contender, who said condolences to the people of North Korea were "inappropriate" and insensitive to American veterans of the Korean war and their families.

Mr. Clinton had extended "sincere condolences" to North Koreans and said the United States appreciated Kim's "leadership in resuming the talks between our governments" which are aimed at resolving nuclear and other issues.

Mr. Dole said Kim's death and the end of his "brutal dictatorship" should be viewed as helping the cause of democracy in North Korea.



VIOLENCE: Two National Peacekeeping Force soldiers stand over an ANC self-defence supporter after having wrestled him to the ground for shooting at Inkatha

Freedom Party supporters in Tokoza township before S. Africa's first multi-racial elections (AFP photo)

Township flareup tests Mandela's credibility

By Rich Mkhondo
Reuters

TOKOZA, South Africa — A flareup of violence in Johannesburg's eastern townships has presented South African President Nelson Mandela with his first domestic crisis.

Residents and outside experts say he must now move decisively or risk grave damage to his high standing.

They said a security clampdown and an emergency programme to improve living conditions are required urgently to bring peace after a week of clashes between supporters of Mr. Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC) and those of the rival Inkatha Freedom Party.

More than 15,000 people have been killed in township warfare since then-President F.W. de Klerk began dismantling apartheid in 1990. Bloodletting between Inkatha and ANC followers nearly

derailed South Africa's first all race elections in April, but violence dropped off markedly after the poll, won by the ANC.

"We voted for this government. Now it runs the risk of having its credibility eroded by the day," Johannes Nkosi, a civic leader aligned with the ANC, said in an interview.

"Mr. Mandela needs to do something quickly to address the needs of this troubled area. Otherwise his organisation risks losing (next year's) local government elections," he added.

African National Congress regional leader Obed Bapela told Reuters the party understood the impatience of the embattled residents, but appealed for time.

"They have lost relatives, houses and many of them have been maimed," he said. "But the whole situation cannot be changed overnight. Remember we have been in power for just over 60 days."

Lloyd Vogelstein, head of the Witwatersrand University Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, said there was an urgent need for Mr. Mandela to intervene personally.

"He is well respected and the only one who could rein in factions from all sides," he said.

"Then the security situation must be addressed and social upliftment programmes launched as soon as possible."

Most residents say they have been waiting too long for government to deliver on its promises to restore order and start development programmes.

"The time for talking and promises are over. President Mandela's government must address the desperate situation," said Tokoza resident Mapule Kholoane.

Mr. Mandela met security chiefs last Thursday to discuss ways to end the bloodletting and said im-

mediate steps would be taken to address the problems in the East Rand.

Renewed fighting pitting ANC supporters and their self-styled Self Defence Units (SDUs) against hostel dwellers who are largely followers of Inkatha, has killed at least 17 people since July 2.

The East Rand townships are hotbeds of violence and crime — revenge attacks, taxi wars and street battles between the SDUs and hostel dwellers.

Eleven people were killed last Wednesday night when gunmen ambushed eight vehicles, including mini-bus taxis, during rush hour on the main road serving the settlements. Authorities were split on whether it was a political massacre or an outbreak of taxi warfare.

Several political analysts and unrest monitors told Reuters the East Rand townships would remain flashpoints as long as they

festered in poverty and deprivation.

No one who enters the townships would have difficulty in identifying the roots of the problem. Normal municipal services have broken down and raw sewage runs in the streets between piles of uncollected refuse.

Streets have not been repaired in years. Virtually all traffic lights and street lights have been vandalised.

Add to that soaring unemployment as companies move out because of instability.

Asked why Katlehong and Tokoza were still troubled while many other townships had calmed down with the advent of majority rule, Mr. Vogelstein said the fighting had been fiercest there and the resulting wounds deeper and harder to heal.

Also, neither side had been able to claim a clear victory in the twin townships.

Marrakesh's world of magic

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

MARRAKESH — With the highest peaks of the Atlas Mountains as its backdrop and the peach coloured buildings dominating its sky line, Marrakesh is considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Crowded with vibrant incense smelling souks and city centres built in the middle ages, adorned with the work of leather craftsmen and abundant with which doctors and snake charmers, the city of half a million people attracts visitors from all corners of the earth.

Marrakesh is the last Moroccan city bordering the desert. It is the dividing line between North Africa and the rest of Africa.

Part Arab, part Berber and part African, Marrakesh has been called a city of dreams because of its great entertainment centre which is said to appeal to the whims of any pleasure seeker and many adventurous travellers. A maze of souks, alleys, mosques and water fountains display the arts, crafts and music of the mountaineers, desert dwellers and the urban artisans also converge in the city centre.

Known as Djemaa El Fna the city centre was built around 1065-70 by Morocco's then Almoravid rulers. Founded by a military leader, Yousef Ben Tachfin, as he conquered northern Morocco within two years before pacifying Spain, Marrakesh and Fez became the capitals of his extensive realm.

A bustling market place by day and a carnival by night, Djemaa El Fna has become a legend over the centuries. Today, French cafes, left over by the colonial rulers, surround the souk and provide coffee



A snake charmer in Djemaa El Fna (Photo by Mariam M. Shahin)

and a wide variety of teas and bubbly bubbly.

A few snake charmers, and an occasional troupe of acrobats, musicians, street entertainers and fortune-tellers are the daily menu of the Djemaa.

A barber sings while giving clients crew cuts and a dentist displays home made dentures and a variety of cavity filled molars in the city square.

Daily, Berber mountain people, as well as Arabs and African desert dwellers come to the Djemaa to be entertained and purchase fresh herbs and spices.

The Djemaa is basically a huge square which several hundred merchants,

fortune-tellers, snake charmers and acrobats have divided into invisible turfs whose borders are known only to them.

In one part of the Djemaa, an incense merchant has spread his wealth of goods on a red coloured cloth. Passers-by choose and pick for a few pieces of petty change before going on to the merchant next to him.

The incense and oils have a most unusual purpose. The merchant is a "sex therapist" who gives advice to men who have "problems" and women who have trouble conceiving. Incense and oils are advised as a cure for those

wishing to increase virility or cure sterility. A book of drawings is heralded from underneath the incense merchants cloak to advise on the art, "physical therapy", which compliments his chemical concoctions.

The therapist incense merchant has three of his front teeth capped in gold — business is good!

Serving as a souk during the day, the Djemaa becomes a circus at night and the acrobats, vagabonds from the Tazerooual, who have supplied European circuses for years, are the high-light of every evening. Performing triple somersaults at will, the performers put many an acrobat

to the test.

In the heat of the day or the cold breeze of the night, musicians practice their flutes or "ouds", seducing the audience into a trance-like state.

Child boxers and transvestites are also on hand in the evening hours to serve as entertainers. A hat is passed around to collect a few pieces of change for their trouble. Chained, sad looking monkeys perform to the sound of a flute and take their hats on and off to the sound of applause.

But the most luring part of the Djemaa remains the music. Until the early hours of morning, musicians hammer away on their gimbri, the skin-covered two or three string guitar, and sing Sufi songs.

Predominantly black Gnawa, trance healers who beat out hour long shafts of African rhythm with iron clappers and oblong drums remind any visitor that Morocco is in Africa.

The square historically served as plaza where criminals and rebels were executed. Djemaa El Fna, literally translated, means assembly of the dead. Executions took place here daily well into the last century. The square has also traditionally been a meeting point for protesters, and rioting by angry mountain Berbers, who make up the majority in this part of Morocco, was common.

It has been and remains a meeting place for the Atlas tribes. Maghrebis from the plains, Saharan nomads and former slaves from Africa beyond the desert as far as way as Timbuctou.

With the high peaked, often misty looking Atlas mountains in the background, it is at the Djemaa El Fna that East meets West. The world of magic meets the common folk and Africa meets the world.

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 8/7/94	Tokyo Close 8/7/94
Sterling Pound	1.5495	1.5537
Deutsche Mark	1.5610	1.5573
Swiss Franc	1.3160	1.3109
French Franc	5.3650	5.3525**
Japanese Yen		
European Currency Unit	1.2230	1.2250**

USD Per STG

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Swedish Krona	0.0144	0.0146
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8100	1.8220
Lebanese Lira	0.040375	0.041775
Saudi Riyal	0.1631	0.1640
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3270	2.3660
Qatari Riyal	0.1607	0.1577
Egyptian Pound	0.2010	0.2250
Omani Rial	1.7660	1.7640
LAE Dirham	0.1667	0.1877
Greek Drachma	0.0245	0.0135
Cypriot Pound	1.3575	1.3560

Per 100

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Dollar braces for another round with bears after G-7

LONDON (R) — The dollar took another hammering on world markets Monday as rhetoric from the Group of Seven (G-7) proved futile against the selling pressure.

Although G-7 leaders attending the weekend summit in Naples voiced displeasure over the dollar's recent fall, lack of any concrete policy agreement added fuel to the U.S. currency's downward trend, dealers said.

"The non-existent G-7 statement on currencies was very disappointing. The market will test the downside," said a U.S. bank trader in Frankfurt.

Ravelli's heroics tip balance Sweden's way

PALO ALTO, California (R) — Thomas Ravelli made two penalty shoot-out saves on his record-equalling 115th appearance for Sweden Sunday to earn his side a place in the semifinals of the World Cup for the first time since 1958.

Sweden, who finished their quarter-final against Romania with 10 men after Stefan Schwarz was sent off in extra time, secured a meeting against Brazil Wednesday with a 5-4 win on penalties after the sides finished 2-2 after extra time.

In what ultimately proved to be one of the most dramatic matches of the tournament, fortunes reversed.

Ravelli eventually tipped the balance Sweden's way. His saves from Dan Petrescu and Miodrag Belodedici in the shoot-out gave Sweden victory after Hakan Mild got the penalties underway by blasting the ball high over the Romanian bar.

After saving Belodedici's penalty to clinch the win, Ravelli was embraced by his ecstatic teammates who had seen victory snatched from their grasp a minute from the end of normal time when Florin Raducioiu equalised. Tomas Brolin had put the Swedes ahead in the 79th minute.

Romania were the better side during extra time and looked to have done enough to win when Raducioiu scored his second goal, and his fourth of the tournament, in the 101st minute.

But with just five minutes of extra time remaining Sweden pulled themselves back from the brink when Kennet Andersson headed home a speculative cross at the far post.

"It was a bit unprofessional of us not to finish it off in 90 minutes," said Ravelli. "But I knew that if I saved the last penalty we would win it. There was no pressure on me. I had everything to win." The match failed to live up to expectations until almost 10 minutes from the end of normal time.

Although Romanian skipper Gheorghe Hagi prodded and probed, he could find no way through the Swedish defence.

The Romanian backline

held firm against some largely ineffective Swedish attacking and unimaginative approach work which consisted largely of long, high balls to the strikers.

Sweden, missing their injured captain and playmaker Jonas Thern, went close when Martin Dahlin hit a post with a fifth minute header and again in the 66th minute when Florin Prunea made an outstanding save to tip a Brolin drive over the bar.

But there were few clear-cut chances for either side until Sweden took the lead through Tomas Brolin.

His goal came from a free-kick which coach Tommy Svensson revealed afterwards he had rehearsed in secret training during the week.

Svensson said: "I saw something in the organisation of the Romanian defence in their earlier matches that I thought could give us an advantage and you saw what that was when we scored from the free kick."

Mild's short pass to Brolin from the free kick set the Parma attacker free, wide of the Romanian wall, and he scored from an acute angle.

Romania equalised when Hagi took a free kick wide on the Swedish left with a minute to go. The ball found Raducioiu who scored from close range.

Hagi was also instrumental in Raducioiu's second which came when the AC Milan striker blasted home from the edge of the box after 101 minutes.

A minute after that goal Sweden's cause looked lost when English referee Philip Don sent off Stefan Schwarz for his second yellow card of the match.

But Sweden battled back with Andersson's late equaliser — his fourth goal of the tournament — to take the match to penalties.

The shoot-out heartache for the Romanians left them ejected from the finals by penalties for the second successive tournament. Four years ago they lost by the same 5-4 scoreline after a 0-0 draw with Ireland.

They were inconsolable then and just as devastated again Sunday.



Sweden's Kennet Andersson watches as his header goes over Romanian goalkeeper Florin Prunea to score Sweden's second goal during their quarterfinal World Cup match at Stanford Stadium (AFP photo)

Swedes celebrate giant World Cup breakthrough

STOCKHOLM (R) — Thousands of young soccer fans charged on to the streets shouting, dancing, drinking and stripping off their clothes in the first light of Monday, celebrating Sweden's best soccer performance since 1958.

As a sudden death penalty shoot-out against Romania in San Francisco Sunday took Sweden into the World Cup semifinals around 3,000 supporters poured out of Stockholm's bars into the capital's Nentral Sergel Square.

After a sweltering weekend in most major cities, with temperatures around 30 degrees Celsius, a bath in the city centre fountain was a welcome.

"They are drunk with joy," a policeman said.

In the port city of Gothenburg crowds sang for their local hero Thomas Ravelli, the veteran goalkeeper whose two saves in a penalty shoot-out clinched victory.

The 34-year-old silenced those who had criticised him for poor form for both his club IFK Gothenburg and the national team this season. Newspapers devoted entire covers and supplements to "the save."

"Now you are the greatest of them all Ravelli," the tabloid Aftonbladet wrote across an enormous colour photograph of the sprawling keeper wrapped over both front and

back pages. "I have never experienced such a great event in Swedish sport," said rival Expressen's soccer commentator Mats Olsson.

Even coach Tommy Svensson, whom most level-headed Swedes consider the most measured man in the world, was amazed.

"I have seen a lot in my life. But this beats everything — by lengths," he told the national news agency TT after the game.

Few wanted to remind Svensson that Sweden has never beaten Brazil, but he looked like a man ready to set that historical record straight.

Romanians jubilant despite Cup defeat

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanians sang in the rain Sunday night in an outburst of emotion and celebration of their best-ever World Cup soccer performance.

Despite their team's quarter-final defeat by Sweden on penalties, fans streamed out of Bucharest bars and homes towards university square, scene of the bloody December 1989 revolution when Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled.

Spraying with champagne, young men ripped off their shirts and danced bare-chested on car roofs. Others reeled in the road in fierce rain to the traditional Hora Folkdance.

"Romania, Romania," they chanted, along with the names of leading players such as Gheorghe Hagi and Ilie Dumitrescu who were weeping on the pitch in California's Palo Alto stadium. The fans waved Romanian

national tricolour flags with holes torn in the middle as they did during the 1989 revolution.

Police cars began cruising Bucharest with lights flashing as soon as the whistle was blown.

Armoured trucks and buses full of riot police as well as fire trucks guarded the Swedish Embassy and the British Embassy — the match referee was England's Philip Don — in case of attacks but there was no sign of real trouble.

Small crowds of fans and convoys of cars paraded through the city with horns blaring and flags waving from the roofs.

But the damp weather ensured the crowds were far smaller than the tens of thousands who celebrated Romania's match triumphs over the previous three weekends.

German players stunned by World Cup knockout

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — German players, accustomed to the greatest heights, abdicated their World Cup throne in stunned disbelief Sunday.

Two superb Bulgarian goals in three minutes turned what had looked an open road for Germany to the semifinals into the cul-de-sac of quarterfinal defeat.

"We were in the dressing-room for 15 minutes and didn't talk very much. It was very quiet," said Lothar Matthaeus, who four years earlier in Rome had hoisted the World Cup trophy in triumph after West Germany's final victory over Argentina.

"We decided not to blame each other for mistakes. Everybody made some mistakes."

Reserve striker Stefan Kuntz said: "It was quiet. Everyone has to work with his own disappointment."

It was a particularly bitter blow for Matthaeus, whose World Cup ended on the day he equalled the record of 21 appearances in final tournament games, joining fellow German Uwe Seeler and Poland's Wladislaw Zmuda.

Matthaeus left his international future open but goalkeeper Bodo Illgner and striker Rudi Voeller said they had played their last games for Germany.

"I told the trainer in the dressing-room that I would no longer be playing in the national team... I had already taken the decision in my own mind but I had really wanted to leave as a world champion," said Illgner, who is 27 years old.

Voeller, still a wily striker at 34, had been pulled out of international retirement for the World Cup and said his final departure was nothing

to do with Sunday's 2-1 defeat in Giants Stadium in New Jersey.

"Some tears have fallen," German Football Federation President Egidius Braun said. "Now we must analyse calmly and have a talk."

Team chief Berti Vogts put an arm round Bulgarian trainer Dimitar Penev and congratulated him before facing journalists.

"Naturally we're disappointed we're not in the last four. We made two small mistakes and they were punished ice-cold," said Vogts, who tasted World Cup glory as a member of Franz Beckenbauer's winning side in 1974 and as "the Kaiser's" assistant coach in 1990.

"After we were 1-0 up we didn't build up our game calmly, which enabled them to counter," he added but observed philosophically: "Football will continue to be played in Germany."

Vogts said he would consider his own future calmly and would stay in the job as long as he enjoyed it.

"After this defeat we'll have to show we're a real team," he said. "We must prepare for the (1996) European Championship. We had the best German players here in America and we will build up the team."

Vogts said the two fatal mistakes were in the defensive wall against Hristo Stoichkov's free kick for the first goal and in having Thomas Haessler, the smallest player in the team, trying to deny Yordan Lechkov in the air for the second.

Goalkeeper Illgner, however, refused to blame the wall for the first goal. "We were caught cold on the free-kick. It came flatly and strongly across the wall. It was very well placed," he



Juergen Klinsmann

said. Matthaeus, who has played a record 117 times for Germany, said he would discuss his international future after taking a holiday.

"I question the people who were already prepared to retire. I question their preparation," he said. "You shouldn't talk about retirement 10 minutes after the game."

"Football is cruel sometimes. From potentially 2-0 up to 2-1 down hurts a lot," midfielder Andreas Moeller said in sorrow at a disallowed strike by Voeller just two minutes before Bulgaria netted their first.

"We lost a game we shouldn't have lost," Haessler, the outstanding German player in the match, said. "We had a lot of chances and they had only one-and-a-half. But that's soccer."

Bulgarians celebrate victory

SOFIA, Bulgaria (Agencies) — It was like a giant explosion — the roar of thousands of soccer fans Sunday night right after Bulgaria's World Cup quarterfinal victory over defending titlist Germany.

For Bulgaria, winless in five previous World Cups, the game turned into the biggest performance in the Balkan country's soccer history.

Minutes after the game was over the streets of the capital were crowded with jubilant people waving national flags, while some dressed themselves in white, green and red capes and shouted "Bulgaria-champion."

Some ten thousand soccer fans, who had watched the victory on huge TV-screens in front of the National Palace of Culture, were dancing and singing hours after the game was over.

Hundreds of cars filled the streets in downtown Sofia causing a total traffic chaos and blocking the way for public transport.

With slogans like "Ole, ole, ole — We Are The Champions" and "Go Bulgaria, Go" the people on the streets were cheered by fans on motor bikes and cars blowing air horns.

"Stoichkov for President" chanted a man in his late fifties waving a small paper-made national flag.

Hristo Stoichkov, the famous Barcelona striker, turned the game around with his perfect freekick performance. It was Stoichkov's fifth

goal in this tournament.

In an interview after the game, aired from New York, the happy goalkeeper said he is dedicating this victory to his daughter, Mihaila, who celebrated her 6th birthday Sunday.

"We had nothing to lose and played without stress against the three-time champion," Stoichkov said.

Goalkeeper Borislav Mihailov, who became almost a national hero after the previous game against Mexico, saving two penalty shots, said in a TV interview that Germany "underestimated the Bulgarian team and therefore lost the crucial game."

"Our golden boys made us forget the 10th of November (the day in 1989 when former communist dictator Todor Zhivkov was toppled). The 10th of July is our new national holiday," said 40-year-old Alexander Tomov. In an address to the nation, broadcast nationwide, President Zhelyu Zhelev praised the glorious victory.

"Only after democracy came to this country our soccer players were allowed to play abroad and to create their real talents. So this victory comes naturally as a result of this development," Zhelev said.

Thirteen of the 22 players on the World Cup roster play abroad.

Maria Mihailova, 75, who was on the street jubilating together with the young soc-

cer fans, said that she could not remember such a joyful event in Bulgaria.

"I feel at least ten years younger," she said.

State-run TV played several times after the game a song based on the popular German pre-war song "Lili Marleen" with a new text describing the soccer victory over the Germans.

In the semifinal at Giants Stadium Wednesday, the Bulgarians will meet three-time winner Italy.

Serbs jubilant

In Sarajevo, the hills around Sarajevo echoed with rhythmic gunfire Sunday as Bosnian Serb soldiers celebrated news of Bulgaria's victory over Germany in the World Cup soccer competition.

The Serbs, who have surrounded the Bosnian capital since April 1992, share linguistic, religious and ethnic ties with Bulgaria and are generally hostile towards Germany, against whom they fought in World War II.

Serb soldiers on the hills above Sarajevo fired into the air at each of the Bulgarian goals.

Vogts under fire

In Bonn, Germany's biggest-selling daily newspaper Das Bild lead the calls for manager Berti Vogts' head here Monday after the country's World Cup exit.

Bulgaria transformed from no-hopers to world-beaters

DALLAS (R) — Striker Hristo Stoichkov has dramatically transformed Bulgaria from a group of dispirited and nervous no-hopers into a cohesive team capable of winning the World Cup.

The Bulgarian side which bravely fought back from a goal down to dump defending champions Germany out of the tournament Sunday bore no resemblance to the one drained of almost any hint of self-belief by their 3-0 defeat to Nigeria in the first round.

Having now beaten both of the 1990 World Cup finalists, Germany and Argentina, Bulgaria clearly believe they can become the first Eastern European side to win the trophy.

Such a feat would be outstanding not least because of their abysmal World Cup history, but because they were only seconds from not even qualifying for the tournament.

Emil Kostadinov earned them a sensational 2-1 victory over France in Paris with a goal from virtually the last

kick of their last qualifying match to send them to the United States instead of the French.

But they looked miserably out of their depth when they opened their World Cup campaign against debutants Nigeria.

Following the painful loss to the African champions that marked Bulgaria's 17th game without a win in six World Cup finals, several players drowned their sorrows in the bars of Dallas into the early hours of the following morning.

On the day of their showdown with Greece in a match that proved the turning point, the players were intensely nervous at their team hotel.

Neither was their tension eased by reports in the Sofia press that hundreds of Bulgarian skinheads were threatening a violent homecoming for the players at the airport if they lost to Greece.

But two penalties from Barcelona star Stoichkov relaxed the nerves and spurred Bulgaria to an historic 4-0

victory which lifted the pressure that had inhibited their play.

Having finally cast off their World Cup jinx, the team played with much more verve against Argentina — after spending the last minutes before the game singing folk songs in the dressing room.

With the pressure off and the South Americans reeling from the suspension that morning of Diego Maradona, Bulgaria blew away the 1990 finalists and registered a shock win that was to transform their self-belief completely.

Again it was Stoichkov who turned the tide with a 61st minute goal, but more tellingly the midfield lambasted by coach Dimitar Penev for its initial lack of effort and mobility was running with the vigour of teenagers.

Hamburg's Yordan Lechkov, scorer of the winning goal against Germany, and Sporting Lisbon's Krstimir Balakov, started to drive the side forward.



The Bulgarian World Cup soccer team poses for a victory picture after defeating Germany 2-1 on Sunday (AFP photo)

And at last Stoichkov and Porto winger Emil Kostadinov, who were also singled out by Penev for their reluctance to contribute enough, were showing why they are footballing millionaires.

The Bulgarians survived the knife-edged drama of a drawn second-round match against Mexico that went into

extra-time and the first penalty-shootout of the finals, to emerge with a belief that now luck was also taking their side.

They now head for the uncharted territory of the semifinals and a meeting with Italy, wondering whether their revived form, and lady luck, will stay with them.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cup wife-beaters hit harder

PARIS (AFP) — French wife-beaters are hitting their spouses for longer and harder during the World Cup, a women's help association said here Monday. More than 10 per cent of battered wives calling the Paris-based association blamed the World Cup, saying their husbands had been angered when their wives called them to table during a match. If the children were making too much noise or their team lost, violent husbands would attack their wives or their offspring, the association, Stop: Aid for Battered Women, said. "Eight years ago, it was worse, when France was in the series," a spokeswoman said, urging women to "keep a low profile" and men to "drink mineral water."

Bulgarian kills husband amid Cup celebrations

SOFIA (R) — A woman killed her husband with a kitchen knife after he came home drunk from celebrating Bulgaria's victory over Germany in the World Cup, the state news agency BTA said Monday. Matei Yordanov, 46, died after his wife grabbed a knife and stabbed him three or four times Sunday night, the agency said. The woman had told police in Kyustendil, western Bulgaria, Jordanov had threatened to kill their son.

Mad jailers given World Cup slip

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany (AFP) — Two Albanians escaped from jail while their warders watched the World Cup on television, it was revealed Monday. The two used part of a bed frame to dig a hole through their cell wall and climbed over a three-metre wall using bed sheets. Police admitted Monday they had no clues over the pair's current whereabouts. Germany lost Sunday's semifinal match 2-1 against Bulgaria.

Monk in World Cup tragedy

BANGKOK (AFP) — A Thai Buddhist monk died and a 10-year-old novice was injured late Saturday when they climbed a water tower to adjust a TV aerial for a World Cup play-off game, Thai television reported. Phra Suwit Wangka and the boy, Prasit Boonmee, volunteered to climb the 15 metre tower when the television signal at Tai Temple deteriorated shortly before the Italy-Spain match, military-run Channel 7 said Sunday. The antenna collapsed, struck a power line and exploded, knocking both Phra Suwit and Prasit to the ground. Both were rushed to a local hospital in Kanchanaburi province, 128 kilometres (80 miles) west of here. Phra Suwit died of head injuries, the report said, adding that Prasit was still in the hospital with severe burns.

Golfer killed in freak accident

GLOVERSVILLE, New York (AFP) — A teenage golfer, angry with himself over a poor shot, was killed when he broke his golf club over a bench and a portion of it snapped back into his heart, authorities said. The youth was identified as 16-year-old Jeremy Brenno, who was playing golf with friends at the Kingsboro Golf Club in New York state. Fulton County coroner Paul Decker said the shaft from the No. 3 wood snapped back into the teen's heart and pierced his pulmonary vein, causing him to bleed to death.

Unser wins Indycar race

CLEVELAND, Ohio (R) — American Al Unser Jr. got his fifth win in the last six Indycar races Sunday, beating Briton Nigel Mansell by a convincing 23.89 seconds in the Cleveland Grand Prix Sunday.

Unser, the polesitter and this year's Indianapolis 500 winner, won with a track record speed of 138.026 mph (209.251 kph) in a Penske Ilmor, Canadian Paul Tracy finished third, also in a Penske Ilmor.

Unser extended his points lead to 127 to 86 over Brazilian teammate Emerson Fittipaldi, who retired from the race due to a fire in his brake lines.

Mansell, the defending series champion, moved into third place with 72 points. Unser drove a flawless, uneventful race while Mansell, in a Lola Ford Cosworth, had two close calls that could have eliminated him.

Unser said: "It was a pretty good run. I was fortunate to get a good start. And there was no pressure from behind, so when I came upon a lapped car, I could give it a lot of room."

Despite his distant second-place finish, Mansell was pleased. "I drove my rear end off," the former world driving champion said.

"I feel very satisfied. The team did a brilliant job for me. I know I drove as hard as I can and we were beaten by a better team, better car, better driver."

"And that's what the game is all about. We had reliability, so as I said, my second-place today almost feels like a win."

Mansell's first incident occurred when he was about to lap teammate Mario Andretti, who was trying to overtake slower traffic. They tangled.

"He just came straight across me," said Mansell. "He should watch where he's going a bit more."

Andretti retired, but Mansell's Lola appeared unscathed.

In the closing laps Mansell brushed the wall with his left rear tyre. "We hit the wall square. As long as you hit the wall square, you bounce off," he said.

The Penske team has now won seven out of the eight races in the series this year and since the Indianapolis 500 in May, the team has led 532 of a possible 534 laps.

Unser had all but three laps, when he took routine pit stops.

Canada's Jacques Villeneuve, who finished fourth in a Reynard Ford Cosworth, was the last on the lead lap. Stefan Johansson of Sweden finished fifth in a 1993 Penske Ilmor.

Bangladesh court summons Havalenge for Maradona ban

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — FIFA President Joao Havalenge standing trial in a Bangladesh court?

If a Bangladesh court has its way, Havalenge would appear to answer charges of causing mental anguish for debarred Argentina's fallen soccer star Diego Maradona from the World Cup.

A lower court Sunday summoned Havalenge, head of soccer's worldwide governing body, to reply to a suit filed by a Maradona fan for what he claimed was the Argentinean's illegal suspension for suspected drug abuse.

Judge Mahbubul Islam asked Havalenge to appear on Aug. 10.

"The expulsion of Maradona was illegal. This has caused my mental breakdown," said supreme court advocate Khan Mohammad Anwarul Wadud in his complaint. "I'm suffering financial loss because I can't concentrate on work."

Wadud has asked for token damages of 1,000 taka (\$25). Wadud said Monday he was exploring legal ways to get the summons to Havalenge so that the FIFA chief can be made liable to appear before the court.

After FIFA's ban on Maradona, hundreds of fans marched through the streets in Dhaka and several other Bangladesh cities to demand his reinstatement.

Maradona's banishment had grabbed the main headlines in newspapers, brushing aside major stories on domestic politics. But the World Cup has been disrupting daily life here from game one.

Prisoners at a Bangladesh jail had threatened to go on a hunger strike unless they could watch the games on television. In some jails, where TVs are normally not allowed, authorities had to provide sets to maintain peace.

Fans smashed windows at two electrical stations after a power failure cut off the broadcast of the U.S.-Switzerland game.

While Bangladesh was 2-6 in World Cup qualifying and was outscored 28-7, soccer is played in every village and town, and is more popular than any other sport.

By 16 kilometres, Indurain had overtaken American world champion Lance Armstrong, who had started two minutes ahead of the Spaniard. Armstrong ended up more than six minutes behind Indurain.

Just short of the midway point Indurain led Rominger by 1:24 as Rominger was slowed when he had to change a flat tire, costing about 25 seconds.

The Spaniard increased it to exactly two minutes at the end. Sprinters had dominated the first eight stages, jockeying for position at the end and in intermediate sprints for bonus seconds, but experts always regarded this year's tour as a race between Rominger and Indurain.

Rominger came back to win the second long time trial, beating Indurain by 42 seconds.

Indurain wins time trial to go into Tour de France lead

BERGERAC, France (AP) — Three-time winner Miguel Indurain overwhelmed rival Tony Rominger by two minutes Monday in a pivotal time trial of the Tour de France to take the overall lead after nine stages.

Indurain now has a lead of two minutes, 28 seconds over Rominger after the 64-kilometre leg from Perigueux to Bergerac in southwestern France. Indurain's time was 1 hour, 15 minutes, 58 seconds.

Johan Museeuw of Belgium, who had the lead entering the day, ended up 7 minutes, 16 seconds behind Indurain and dropped deep in the standings.

Indurain had won his last three tours on the basis of victories — sometimes by big margins — in the time trials. The only time he faltered was in the final time trial last year when Rominger won easily after Indurain had the tour wrapped up.

Indurain was ahead of Rominger by 24 seconds at 6.5 kilometres and increased the lead to almost a minute at 15.1 kilometres.

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Rominger came back to win the second long time trial, beating Indurain by 42 seconds.



Miguel Indurain

3 soccer leagues to try kick-ins

DALLAS (R) — Three European leagues will experiment with kick-ins instead of throw-ins next season, FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter said Saturday.

Blatter said the Belgian and Hungarian second divisions and an English semi-professional league would test the kick-ins and said he expected the change to be written into the laws of the game within two years.

"I am sure that in two years the kick-in will replace the throw-in in the laws of the game and then we will have an even faster game than we have now," Blatter said in an interview with Australia's SBS TV network.

The kick-in, used in soccer in the 1860s and 1870s, was replaced by the throw-in in 1882.

Blatter said the kick-in would also add to the skill element. "There will be more technique than we have now, because by kicking the ball in it is easier to control it."

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ANNONCE
Les français résidant ou de passage en Jordanie sont cordialement invités au dîner-buffet que donnera l'ambassadeur de France à l'occasion de la Fête Nationale, le jeudi 14 Juillet à partir de 21h 00, à la résidence de l'ambassadeur.
Les personnes n'ayant pas reçu leur invitation sont priées de se présenter au Consulat, munis d'une pièce d'identité, afin de la retirer. Celle-ci sera demandée à l'entrée.
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Michael J. Fox James Woods in The Hard Way Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Nabila Obeid and Farouk Al Fishawi in Unveiling The Secrets Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' Silence of Lambs Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' PERFECT WORLD Shows: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 CURLY SUE Shows: 12:30, 6:15		INDECENT PROPOSAL Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Present their play: WHAT A PEACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tues days.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Another Jordanian held in Philippines

ZAMBOANGA (AP) — The Jordanian regional director of an Islamic charity organisation has been arrested for alleged links to an Islamic extremist group. He was the fourth Muslim foreigner apprehended in the past week. In Manila, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon ordered the immigration bureau to investigate the presence "in unusual numbers" of Iranians, Pakistanis and others in areas where the extremist Abu Sayyaf group operates. The group has been blamed for a series of kidnappings and bombings in the southern Philippines. The group has been holding a Roman Catholic priest since last month after massacring 15 Christian hostages on nearby Basilan Island. Mahmoud Abdul Jalil, 27, regional director of the International Islamic Relief Organisation, was taken into custody here Friday, officials said. Mr. Jalil has lived in the Philippines for the past 10 years and is married with three children, the officials said. Mr. Abdul Jalil was the fourth foreigner and the second Jordanian to be picked up in raids that began after military intelligence officials said Muslim foreigners were supporting the Abu Sayyaf group. Others arrested in the crackdown include one Iranian and a Pakistani.

Gaza police start 'border' patrols

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian police began patrols near the Gaza Strip borders with Israel and Egypt on Monday in a bid to improve security and halt smuggling, a high-ranking officer told AFP. The new force also intends putting up several observation points. "There is a lot of smuggling of weapons, drugs and cars and we want to put a stop to it," the officer said. Under the autonomy agreement, which was implemented in May, Israel controls the borders. The Palestinian patrols are inside the areas under the control of the new police force.

21,000th ship intercepted by U.S.-Navy

BAHRAIN (AP) — A Maltese-flagged ship sailing from Saudi Arabia to Jordan was the 21,000th vessel to be intercepted by U.S.-led naval forces watching for prohibited Iraqi trade, the U.S. Navy said Monday. The ship was identified as the Ionian Korti. It was en route to Aqaba after sailing from the Saudi port of Jeddah with 53 containers of general cargo. Lieutenant Hal Pitman of the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, which is headquartered in the Gulf, said the interception was July 9. He said the frigate USS Stephen W. Groves sent a boarding team that checked out the cargo for prohibited goods and then the Ionian Korti was allowed to proceed.

Algeria raises air fares by up to 30%

TUNIS (R) — Algeria raised airline fares by 20 to 30 per cent on Monday to keep up with higher operating costs and a currency devaluation, state radio said. The increases applied to the national airline, Air Algérie, as well as foreign airlines based in Algeria, the radio quoted an Air Algérie spokesman as saying. The ticket prices on internal routes, operated only by Air Algérie, rose by 30 per cent. On international flights the increases ranged from 20 to 30 per cent.

India's top policewoman wins award

MANILA (AP) — India's highest-ranking policewoman has won the 1994 Ramon Magsaysay Award for government service for her contributions to controlling crime, improving the image of law enforcement and improving prison conditions, it was announced Monday. Kiran Bedi, inspector general of prisons in the Delhi area, was cited by the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation. The award carries a prize of \$50,000 and is among Asia's most prestigious. "No social relationship in Asia is more fraught with ambiguity than that between the police and the people," the foundation said. "For too many people, the police are not a positive good, only a necessary evil." According to the citation, Ms. Bedi earned a master's degree and won the Asia women's lawn tennis championship in 1972 before joining the Indian police. As deputy commissioner for Delhi's west and north districts, Ms. Bedi arranged loans and assistance for beggars so they could set up legitimate businesses. She also established drug rehabilitation centres that were expanded when she became deputy director of the narcotics bureau. In 1993, Ms. Bedi became inspector general of prisons in the Delhi area, which included the notorious Tihar prison, where 8,000 inmates were housed, 90 per cent of whom were simply awaiting trial.

Zambia seeks Israeli know-how

TEL AVIV (AP) — Zambian President Frederick J.T. Chiluba said Monday that he came to Israel hoping to go home with commitments to bring Israeli technological know-how to his country. His visit includes stops at Israeli military industries marketing advanced military technology. "We did not come here to ask for money, we are here because we want your knowledge and your expertise," Mr. Chiluba told Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after signing a cooperation agreement.

Anti-drug drive working, Lebanon says

DAMASCUS (R) — A campaign launched in 1992 to rid Lebanon of narcotics production is succeeding with help from Syrian troops stationed in the country, Lebanon's interior minister has said. The minister, Bechara Merhej, said in an interview with the Syrian official newspaper Al Baath published on Monday: "There is no new cannabis production now. There might still be some stocks that we have not found yet, but we are continuing our drive to discover them. In 1992 an area of 5,680 hectares planted with cannabis was destroyed ... our drug-fighting units have proof that there are no areas planted with drugs in 1994," the minister said.

Haiti regime ousts U.N.-OAS mission

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Haitian authorities have given an international human rights delegation 48 hours to leave Haiti, diplomatic sources here said Monday. The order was given in a communique to the Port-au-Prince headquarters of the United Nations Organisation of American States joint mission made up of some 120 delegates who watch for human rights violations. The 48-hour eviction notice from the de facto military government of General Raoul Cedras comes amid rising tensions in Haiti as more U.S. naval ships took up positions this week off the coast of the Caribbean nation (see page 4).

Amnesty: Lebanon failed to answer charges

LONDON (AFP) — Amnesty International said Monday Lebanon had failed satisfactorily to answer charges that it tortured 14 prisoners accused of collaborating with Israel. The London-based rights group reiterated in a communique its allegations made last April that the prisoners had been tortured at Defence Ministry premises in Beirut. Amnesty said in April it was "particularly concerned that no attempts appear to have been made (by the Lebanese authorities) to investigate the allegations." The group said three doctors at the American University in Beirut were designated, at the request of lawyers for the 14, to examine them, but that the doctors "promptly filed petitions asking to be excused." No other arrangements for an independent medical examination have been made, it said. Amnesty noted that Lebanese Justice Minister Bahighe Tabbara had denied the torture allegations, but added: "In the absence of any independent investigation into the allegations of torture, with a public report setting out its findings, the organisation could not dismiss such allegations as false or tendentious."



NAMING CEREMONY: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor pose with their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania, their son Prince Al Hussein

and the parents of Princess Rania at a naming ceremony for the new-born Prince at the Al Nadwa Palace on Monday. Prince Al Hussein was born on June 28 (photo by Crystal)

241 Jordanian claimants to get nearly \$1m in compensation this month

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two hundred and forty-one Jordanians who filed claims for compensation against deaths or serious injuries in the Gulf crisis triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 could expect to receive payment this month, officials said Saturday.

The release of the payments, received from a special U.N. compensation fund set up after the liberation of Kuwait in early 1991, came after an order issued by His Majesty King Hussein. It is the first installment of payments released by the Geneva-based committee since it was set up.

The announcement came as a watershed for the thousands of Jordanians who were forced out of Kuwait as a result of the Iraqi invasion and who have filed claims for compensation.

Many of the claimants had given up hope of receiving payment, after repeated reports that the U.N. fund had no money to pay out. However, it remained unclear when claimants in categories other than the one which is being considered could hope to receive payment, given the low funds available with the U.N. body.

The total amount of the honours claims is \$250,000, and the officials said a government committee chaired by the labour minister which is in charge of handling the

claims would be notifying each claimant.

No details were available as to how many of the claimants were granted the \$10,000 they sought under the U.N. guidelines, which set a \$2,500-\$10,000 bracket for "category B" claims — those related to the death or serious injuries sustained by a family member.

The U.N. said three weeks ago it was releasing a total of \$2.7 million for 670 "Category B" claimants from 16 countries. Some of the claims were rejected, but no details of the rejections were immediately available.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, late Friday, Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi said the King had ordered the committee to make "full payment" of the claims accepted by the U.N.

Earlier reports, unconfirmed by officials, had said that the government committee was planning to set aside a small percentage of the claims — as and when they were settled — for administrative expenses. The King's order meant that no such reductions would be made.

Yahya Al Otaibi, head of a centre that helped the returnees to fill in the applications, said all claimants would be contacted individually and asked to contact the authorities to collect payment. He declined to comment any further and referred all inquiries to the Ministry of Labour. No official was

immediately available for comment at the ministry.

Applicants who contacted the centre said they were told that the payments would be released this month and to await intimation from the authorities. They said they were also told that the committee had opened a new office in downtown Amman and details of all applications were being processed by computer.

In his comments to Petra, Mr. Ghazawi said pending applications would be handled soon by the U.N. fund, which has so far scrutinised 1,119 claims under "category B," to which the panel has given priority.

Jordanian claims under this category number around 700, officials have said.

According to Mohammad Akel, a senior official of the ministry of labour, Jordanians have filed 110,000 claims in five categories to the U.N. compensation committee. About 66,000 claims are in the "category A," which deals with claims related to forced departure from Kuwait as a result of the Iraqi invasion, "category C" deals with losses of personal property and "categories D and E" deal with claims of commercial entities for compensation for losses of a commercial nature.

The Jordanian applications total a claim of \$3.5 billion, according to Dr. Akel.

Mr. Otaibi, himself a returnee from Kuwait, said last month some of the 'category

B' claims were "erroneously filed."

"Some of the claimants did not qualify for compensation under category B, but still they insisted on filing the claims," Mr. Otaibi said. He could not provide a clear figure on the number of such "erroneous" claims, but said it was not very high.

The U.N. compensation committee has received up to 2.5 million claims which total tens of billions of dollars (Kuwait itself has filed a claim for \$70 million).

The committee says it has around \$30 million at its disposal.

Under Security Council resolutions, 30 per cent of all proceeds from Iraqi oil exports — as and when they are resumed after the lifting of international sanctions against that country — are to be channelled to the compensation fund.

The funds already available with the committee came from Iraqi funds frozen abroad as part of the sanctions, which took effect a few days after the invasion of Kuwait.

The U.N. fund is hoping for more funds when Turkey pays 30 per cent of the proceeds from a one-time sale of nine to 12 million barrels of Iraqi oil which remains in a closed pipeline that runs from Iraqi oil fields to a Turkish terminal in the Mediterranean.

That would mean an estimated \$50 to \$60 million reaching the committee.

Israeli jets raid Hizbollah in Bekaa

BEIRUT (Agencies) —

Israeli warplanes rocketed Lebanese resistance bases in the Bekaa Valley Monday, hours after the Israeli navy reportedly killed two suspected guerrilla divers off Lebanon's southern coast.

The air and sea hostilities raised fears of a major flare-up in South Lebanon ahead of a planned Middle East trip by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher aimed at promoting peace talks between Israel and Syria.

Mr. Christopher is tentatively due in the region next week to break the stalemate in the Syrian-Israeli track of the Middle East peace negotiations.

Syria on Saturday accused Israel of deliberately heating up hostilities in Lebanon to foil Mr. Christopher's visit and impede the peace process.

"Israel wants... to strain the peace process so that the American secretary will find himself busy calming down the explosive situation in South Lebanon instead of getting the Syrian and Lebanese tracks moving again," the state-owned Ashshin newspaper said.

Security sources in Lebanon said two fighter-bombers fired four rockets at 10:30 a.m. (0720 GMT) on bases used by guerrillas of the Hizbollah group in the neighbouring villages of Sohmar and Ain Al Tineh in Bekaa.

The sources, who requested anonymity, said one guerrilla was wounded in the raid.

The villages attacked Monday are about five kilometres south of the foremost Syrian army line in the Bekaa and 10 kilometres east of a border enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon known as the "security zone."

Monday's air attack was Israel's 27th on Lebanon this year. Up to 59 people have been killed and 217 wounded in the previous air strikes.

The sea hostilities occurred off Lebanon's southern coast Sunday night, when the Israeli navy shot to death two divers it suspected were guerrillas trying to reach Israel to carry out an attack, Israel's army radio said.

The radio gave no further details and there was no comment on the incident from the Lebanese authorities.

Sources at the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon reported shooting off the coastal border before midnight, including machine gunfire and flares from Israeli gunboats.

7 foreigners killed in Algeria; suspects held in Italians' murder

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Suspected militants killed seven East European technicians in two attacks Monday, raising to 51 the number of foreigners killed in an escalating campaign intended to cripple Algeria's economy and topple its government.

Last week, assailants slit the throats of seven Italian sailors at the port of Djendjen.

Security officials said the five victims of the first attack, in the Algiers suburb of Oued Ouchay, were killed after their bus was stopped at a roadblock by gunmen posing as uniformed police.

There were conflicting accounts of the nationalities of the five victims, who were on contract with the state oil company. Security officials said there were four Russians and one Romanian. While other authorities said they included one Russian, two Belarusians, a Ukrainian and a Romanian.

In the second attack, assailants sprayed gunfire at a restaurant near the Algiers Zoo, killing two technicians from ex-Yugoslavia and two Algerian colleagues. Two other people reportedly were wounded.

The Italian merchant sailors were killed by assailants who raided their cargo ship during the night. An Italian legislator in Algeria to follow the investigation of slayings reported that two suspects had been arrested. Italian state TV said Monday.

It said Mirko Tremaglia, head of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee, reported that the arrested pair confessed and identified the other assailants.

Mr. Tremaglia told reporters in Algiers he learned of the arrests at a meeting with Interior Minister Abdul Rahmane Meziane Cherif.

In a dispatch from the Algerian capital, the Italian news agency ANSA, quoted

Mr. Tremaglia as saying Mr. Cherif told him the two Algerian men had confessed to a role in the murders and helped to identify alleged accomplices.

The seven seamen had their throats slit while sleeping on the grain ship Lucina. It was the second-worst single killing of foreigners since fighting erupted in 1992 between Muslim fundamentalists and security forces.

ANSA quoted Mr. Tremaglia as saying that Algerian authorities had told him the two men had "direct links" to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Algeria's banned main opposition party.

The government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is due to address the lower house on the killings on Tuesday. The murders horrified Italy and prompted calls for better protection for foreign nationals working in Algeria.

Egypt's human rights record 'still worsening'

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's human rights record deteriorated further last year as the government intensified a campaign to quell Muslim extremists, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights said Monday.

But in an annual report, the private organisation held armed Islamic groups responsible for 1993's escalation of violence. Their actions killed 137 of the year's 207 people whose deaths were attributed to extremist violence and police counter-violence.

The report said extremists killed 90 policemen, 45 Egyptian civilians, including six Coptic Christians because of their religion, and two foreign tourists. Police were responsible for the deaths of 59 extremists and 11 bystanders.

Negad Al Borai, the organisation's secretary-general, told reporters the toll was 50 per cent higher than during the three previous years combined.

And Mr. Borai said although the report did not list human rights violations in 1994, his organisation has seen no evidence that either the government or the extremists have moderated their tactics.

An Associated Press count for his year shows that 109 people have been killed, but the number of policemen slain by extremists has decreased greatly in the past two months.

Mr. Borai also reported no lessening of the government's alleged use of torture, arbitrary detention, collective punishment and intentional killing of extremists. The report said it has documented 14 cases of people who died under torture in 1993.

"The government did not even respond to our demand

to investigate these 14 cases," Mr. Borai said.

One deterioration in human rights guarantees, which the organisation's report called dangerous, was President Hosni Mubarak's continued extensive use of military courts to punish suspected extremists since early last year.

Civilians should never be tried by military courts, Mr. Borai said, because their sentences are subject only to review by the president and cannot be appealed. Military courts sentenced 58 people to death; 37 have been hanged, and the rest are at large.

As for the extremists, the human rights group feared their extending targets and terror techniques to cause more civilian casualties.

Most damaging were 12 bomb explosions set by the extremists aiming to assassinate top government officials or terrorise civilians. Egypt's prime minister and ministers of interior and information were among extremist targets, but all survived.

Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, or the Islamic Group, and Jihad — the extremist cells most responsible for violence in the expanded two-year-old confrontation between government and extremists — also continued a campaign to terrorise Egypt's secular intellectuals, the report said.

It also highlighted cases of 54 Palestinians detained in Egyptian prisons without charge or trial. Most are held for political reasons, Mr. Borai said.

As in many other Arab countries, Palestinians often complain of maltreatment in Egypt, especially since Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders aligned themselves with Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf war.

COLUMN

Jackson entourage denies wedding report

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Members of Michael Jackson's entourage denied reports that the pop megastar had married the daughter of Elvis Presley in the Dominican Republic in May. "My understanding is it's completely false," Sam Emerson, one of Jackson's photographers, told AFP. "This is not true."

He said a member of the Michael Jackson Production management, who asked not to be named, in the Dominican Republic, attorney Francisco Alvarez Perez said he had wed Jackson, 35, and Lisa Marie Presley, 26, at his home in La Vega on May 26. According to an official marriage record obtained Sunday, complete with the requisite government seals, the two Americans were wed by Alvarez, La Vega's civil records official, on May 26.

Lisa Marie Presley is the daughter of Elvis Presley and Priscilla Presley. Heir to a fortune now worth an estimated \$100 million, the aspiring singer was divorced earlier this year from musician Danny Keough, and has two children from their marriage.

Charles does not want church-state break — archbishop

YORK, England (AFP) —

The Archbishop of York, John Habgood, second only to the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Anglican Church, said late Sunday that Prince Charles did not favour a break between church and state. "There has been much misleading speculation about his views on the established status of the Church of England," Arch. Habgood said, alluding to recent televised statements by Prince Charles that he wished to be the defender of all faiths rather than just the defender of the Anglican faith if he becomes king. Speaking at the church synod meeting in York, Arch. Habgood said Prince Charles had "made it clear to the Archbishop of Canterbury (George Carey) and myself that his remarks should not be taken as implying support for disestablishment or any other change in this country's constitution. "His Royal Highness's remarks about the importance of faith in an increasingly secular society and his concern for all subjects of the sovereign, regardless of religion, are much to be welcomed."

Earlier, Arch. Carey said there was no reason why Prince Charles could not become the head of the established church as well as representing other faiths.

Archbishop appeals for return of kidnapped baby

LONDON (AFP) — Dr. George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, appealed Sunday for the return of a new-born baby kidnapped by a woman from a hospital in the central city of Nottingham for the sake of the child's family. "Our hearts go out to that family with their plight. I want to say that we're all praying for you," Arch. Carey said on BBC Radio, as special prayers were said in churches across the country for the safe return of Abbie Humphries, abducted just four hours after her birth on July 1. "We want that you child to be returned to the parents unharmed so that family love may continue," he added. "I'd want to say to whoever may be protecting or has the baby that surely you would feel it's not your child. 'You must return it to the legitimate mother and father, and we hope quickly, so that the child would be protected from further harm.' "It's obviously someone who is highly disturbed, we must give her help," he continued. The woman who took the baby was caught on security cameras in the hospital posing as a nurse. She said she had to take the child for a hearing test. Numerous media appeals by police for information on the case have been answered by a flood of calls from the public, including one from a man calling himself Gary, who said his wife had Abbie and that the baby was well.

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